

AMMAN (Petra) — The Cabinet on Saturday decided to allocate JD 1.231 million to be spent on feasibility studies on phosphates to be mined at Shidieh in southern Jordan during this year. The Cabinet, in its regular session on Saturday, also endorsed a budget for the Jordanian Ports Corporation for 1986 and an amendment to the People's Army Law. The Cabinet also endorsed a Higher Education Law for the equivalence of certificates. Under the law, the minister of higher education has been empowered to set up a higher committee to be entrusted with issuing an equivalence of certificates. This committee would include representatives of the Ministry of Education, the University of Jordan and community colleges. The new amendment supersedes one issued in 1986.

Ibrahimi to tour Middle East

ALGIERS (R) — Algerian Foreign Minister Ahmad Taleb Ibrahimi is due to leave on a tour of the Middle East amid reports that Algeria hopes to launch a new mediation in the Gulf war between Iran and Iraq. The official news agency APS said Mr. Ibrahimi conferred on Saturday with President Chadli Benjedid before going to the Middle East. It said that at the end of his tour he would attend the 43rd ministerial meeting of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) in Addis Ababa. The agency did not say which Middle East countries he would visit nor the purpose of his mission, but diplomats said there were reports that Algeria intended to make another attempt to mediate in the Gulf conflict. Algeria has made several unsuccessful attempts at mediation in the past and was vehemently critical of both sides when intense fighting flared up again recently.

King sends good wishes to Bahrain

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein on Saturday sent a cable of good wishes to the Emir of Bahrain, Sheikh Isa Bin Salman Al Khalifa, on the occasion of the anniversary of the Bahraini leader's assumption of constitutional powers in his country. In his cable King Hussein wished Bahrain further progress and prosperity under Sheikh Isa's rule.

Fayez leaves for Kuwait

AMMAN (Petra) — Lower House of Parliament Speaker Akef Al Fayez left Amman Saturday on an official two-day visit to Kuwait during which he will take part in Kuwait's celebrations of its Independence Day.

Health minister back from Czechoslovakia

AMMAN (Petra) — Health Minister Zaid Hamzeh returned to Amman on Saturday at the end of a visit to Czechoslovakia during which he signed an agreement for health cooperation between Jordan and Czechoslovakia. Dr. Hamzeh said the agreement provides for the exchange of experiences and information, exchange of health delegations and scholarships between the two countries. He added that he met with his Czech counterpart and discussed health issues.

Lebanese president leaves Marrakesh

RABAT (R) — Lebanese President Amin Gemayel left Marrakesh on Saturday after a 36-hour visit including talks with King Hassan, the Moroccan news agency MAP said. Moroccan officials said the visit by Mr. Gemayel and his wife was private and gave no details of topics the two leaders discussed. The agency did not give Mr. Gemayel's destination. He arrived from Rome where he met Pope John Paul and Italian Prime Minister Bettino Craxi.

Junejo promises boosted defence

RAWALPINDI (AP) — Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo on Saturday promised to boost defence forces and to follow a balanced foreign policy. "My government will make all efforts for consolidation of national integrity and sovereignty through a strong national defence and a balanced foreign policy," he told top military officers and administrators at the National Defence College, an institution of higher training for senior military service members.

Danish queen ends formal visit to Egypt

CAIRO (R) — Queen Margrethe of Denmark ended a four-day formal visit to Cairo on Saturday during which she discussed with President Hosni Mubarak Egyptian efforts to promote peace in the Middle East and bilateral relations. Queen Margrethe left Cairo for the Sinai desert peninsula on a visit to Saint Catherine's Monastery before flying to Luxor and Aswan on a sightseeing tour of Egyptian Pharaonic monuments.

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King: It is time for reassessment

We hope it would not take too long for Palestinians to decide • U.S. is also to blame for failure of joint effort • Right of self-determination is as sacred to us as to U.S.

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer

His Majesty King Hussein has said that, following the break in talks with the PLO, this is a period of reassessment for the Palestinians and Arabs in the search for peace and that it is time to face up to realities in the region.

The King, in an interview with Ronald Evans for the Cable News Network (CNN), warned that the danger of a "disaster" would be very real in the Middle East if efforts fail to arrive at a just solution to the Palestinian problem. In the interview, the first after he announced on Wednesday that Jordan was terminating coordinated political moves with the Palestine Liberation Organisation, the King said the entire issue of peace efforts is before the Palestinian people and "the most important objective we have to ensure that they somehow regain their rights on their lost territory."

Iraqi commander reports major breakthrough at Fao

FAO PENINSULA, Iraq (Agencies) — An Iraqi commander said on Saturday his troops had made a major breakthrough in the battle for this southern Iraqi peninsula and Iranian forces were retreating. Major-General Maher Abed Al Rashid, commander of one of three Iraqi columns counter-attacking against Iranian troops who thrust into southern Iraq on Feb. 9, said Iraq would recapture the disputed oil port of Fao within a week. "My troops have been engaged in a fierce battle against the enemy since last night," he told newsmen at his headquarters in the central sector of the peninsula 10 kilometres from Fao. "They have liberated an important position today, a breakthrough in the current battle," he added. "We are advancing and are engaged in a fierce battle against the enemy, who is now on the retreat," he added. Gen. Rashid said Iraq estimated Iranian losses in its 13-day offensive at over 40,000 dead and 150,000 wounded. He said Iranian troops now held less than 18 square kilometres of

the King said. But, he added that "the question is: Is it doing so in the actions it has taken recently or not?" The King said that the U.S. is also responsible for the failure of the joint one year effort with the PLO to reach a negotiated just settlement for the Palestinian question. He said that at the very beginning of Jordan's joint moves with the PLO there was a great deal of procrastination by the United States and otherwise the talks might have reached this point or overtaken it in a positive sense much earlier than now. In his historic nation-wide speech on Wednesday, the King reviewed the developments in Jordan's efforts for a just solution to the Palestinian problem after the Kingdom signed the Feb. 11 accord with the PLO and said Jordan was no longer able to coordinate politically with the leadership of the PLO "until such time when their word becomes their bond, characterised with commitment, credibility and constancy."

Security Council finalises resolution on Gulf

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies) — Security Council members have reached tentative agreement on a resolution calling on Iran and Iraq to observe an immediate ceasefire and withdraw to internationally recognised boundaries. The text, worked out during private consultations late Friday night, will be submitted to capitals for approval and is expected to be put to a vote at a public session on Monday, council members said. French Ambassador Claude de Kemoulart told reporters there was a good possibility the resolution might be adopted unanimously by the 15-nation body, which last Tuesday began debating the latest escalation in the war at the request of Arab states including Iraq. Iran boycotted the debate. It launched a drive into southern Iraq nearly two weeks ago that brought its troops close to the frontier with Kuwait. It demands that the council first condemn what it alleges to have been Iraq's use of chemical weapons and attacks on civilian targets during the five-and-a-half-year-old war. The council's efforts involved intensive contacts between its ten non-permanent members and the five permanent members — the United States, the Soviet Union, Britain, China and France. It wanted to produce a text that would win unanimous approval without antagonising either Iran or Iraq, neither council members. In its present form, the draft would deplore "the initial acts which gave rise" to the conflict and also its continuation, but without assigning blame. It would call on Iran and Iraq to "observe an immediate ceasefire, a cessation of all hostilities on land, at sea and in the air, and withdrawal of all forces to the internationally recognised boundaries without delay." It would also urge that a comprehensive exchange of prisoners of war be completed soon after a truce, in cooperation with the International Committee of the Red Cross. Both parties would be called on to submit all aspects of the conflict to mediation or any other means of peaceful settlement. The council would also ask Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar to continue efforts to help Iran and Iraq implement the resolution. All other states would be urged to continue efforts to help Iran and Iraq implement the resolution. (Continued on page 4)

up its drive to regain the peninsula. He led a big push into the marshes last week in which a wide area captured by Iran two years ago was retaken. The sound of heavy artillery was audible a few kilometres away throughout his briefing, and correspondents saw long columns of Iraqi troops and armour heading for the front lines from the north. An Iraqi colonel, who drove five reporters across the combat zone, said the forwardmost Iraqi position was four kilometres west of Fao. "The front line zigzags around Fao. There are areas where we are 10 kilometres from Fao and in other areas we are only four kilometres from Fao," the colonel said. "Our positions are not separated from the enemy forces by any no-man's land. In several areas our soldiers and the Iranians control the opposite slopes of the same hill," he added. During the drive across the combat zone scores of dead Iranian soldiers were sighted on both sides. (Continued on page 4)

Israel says all forces pulled back

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel on Saturday pulled back all forces searching for two missing soldiers to within its self-declared "security zone" in South Lebanon and the Israeli border, military officials said. The pullback came amid rising concern in Israel that the massive six-day search in Lebanon would prompt a rise in anti-Israeli attacks by Lebanese commandos. The Israeli army later announced the withdrawal. "Israel defence force troops have left the search area north of the security zone. The search for two missing soldiers will continue by other means," an army spokesman said. The search was being thinned out in areas north of an Israeli self-styled "security zone." Security sources quoted by Reuters said at least three people were wounded on Saturday when sporadic gunbattles flared as Israel continued its six-day-long hunt. They said the three were wounded in a valley near Deir Intar village, adding that three buildings were dynamited by Israeli troops in the hamlets of Majdel Siml and Sultaniyeh. Reports showed the Israelis had found a commando arsenal of about fifty 122-mm Katyusha rockets in Sultaniyeh, they said. There were signs Israel had scaled down its military presence outside its "security zone," but there was no indication of imminent withdrawal, the sources told Reuters. The spokesman for peacekeeping troops of the United Nations Truce Monitoring Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), Timor Goksel, said that in six days three mechanised infantry battalions totalling 1,500 Israeli troops had searched an area about 16 kilometres by 12 kilometres. "We have had many casualty reports but they cannot be confirmed," he said. Reports also spoke of looting by the pro-Israel "South Lebanon Army" (SLA) militia. Lebanese security sources in the southern port of Tyre told Reuters commandos ambushed an Israeli patrol near Qaayayit village Friday night with anti-tank grenades and a roadside bomb or mine. There were no reports of casualties. (Continued on page 4)



Jordan will not substitute for Palestinians, King reaffirms

Lower House endorses decision to terminate political coordination with PLO leadership

By Saad G. Hattar
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein said on Saturday that Jordan will by no means act as a substitute for the Palestinians and will never prevent them from choosing the course they want. Addressing members of the Lower House of Parliament at the Royal Court, the King also said: "Jordan will continue to support the Palestinian people everywhere and will support efforts to end their plight." The King was replying to a statement of total support made by

the Lower House for his decision to terminate political coordination with the leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). The King said he felt it was his duty to present to the people the facts and the outcome of his contacts with the PLO. He expressed that the dialogue with the Palestinians and other Arab countries will continue and lead to a formula that can help the Arabs and enable them to free the Arab people from Israeli occupation. The Lower House statement, which was read out to the King by House Speaker Akef Al Fayez, expressed full support to the King's speech on Wednesday reviewing Jordan's two attempts to work jointly with the PLO to find a peaceful settlement to the Palestinian question. In the statement, the House reiterated commitment to the constitutional unity between the West and East banks. "This nation has absolute belief and conviction in its sacred constitutional unity, which came according to the desire of the people (Continued on page 3)

Egypt seeks Arab help to heal Jordan-PLO rift

CAIRO (R) — Egypt appealed on Saturday to other Arab countries to help it try to bridge differences between Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) over future Middle East peace moves. Jordan on Wednesday terminated coordinated political moves with the PLO, accusing its leadership of impeding moves towards an international peace conference. Egyptian Foreign Minister Esmat Abdul Meguid called on other Arab states to assist in patching up the split so Jordan and the PLO could resume efforts to find a formula that would pave the way for the proposed peace conference. "We ask our Arab brothers to help us to bring back together the Palestinians and the Jordanians," he said. Mr. Abdul Meguid said Egypt was exploring all avenues to bridge the differences rather than apportioning blame or passing judgment on either side. "I don't think that both sides have closed the door," he added. A columnist in the semi-official Al Ahran newspaper wrote on Saturday that the Middle East peace process was now at a crossroads. The writer, Ihsan Bakr, said differences were not between the PLO and Jordan but primarily with the United States, which should also agree to accept simultaneously the right of self-

determination for the Palestinian people. In the United Arab Emirates, the Al Itihad newspaper said the Fatah leadership was holding contacts with all Palestinian factions to discuss the possibility of convening an emergency meeting of the Palestine National Council (PNC) to discuss the breakdown of PLO-Jordanian moves. The paper quoted Palestinian sources as saying the PLO has requested the help of the Soviet Union and several Arab states in reconciling PLO factions before holding the PNC session. The sources said Algeria was being contacted to host this session but no date had been proposed yet.

Marcos claims death plot foiled as defence chiefs stage rebellion

MANILA (Agencies) — President Ferdinand E. Marcos claimed on Saturday that he had uncovered a military plot to assassinate him and called upon his defence minister and armed forces chief-designate to abandon an effort to unseat him from a suburban military camp. Mr. Marcos made the call after Defence Minister Juan Ponce Enrile and military chief-designate Fidel Ramos took over the Defence Ministry Saturday night, vowed to fight to the death, and called on troops and other ministers to join them against Mr. Marcos. Just two weeks after presidential elections in which opposition candidate Corason Aquino claims she was cheated, Mr. Enrile told a press conference: "We will stay here until we are killed." "We want the will of the people to be respected. I believe the mandate of the people does not belong to the (Marcos) regime," But Mr. Marcos charged that Mr. Enrile and Gen. Ramos were involved in a plot to assassinate himself and his wife Imelda. "They were part of an abortive plot against the first lady and the president," he told a press conference. The 68-year-old president, due to be sworn in for a fourth term on Tuesday after his disputed Feb. 7 election victory, said: "The situation is under control..." He added: "Other commanders have now organised troops under their command... to liquidate, eliminate" forces now with Gen. Ramos and Mr. Enrile at Camp Aguinaldo, the Defence Ministry headquarters in southern Manila. Mr. Marcos said: "I call on the former minister of defence and the former vice chief of staff to stop this stupidity and surrender." He said that if forces loyal to him moved in "there will be a bloody mess. It will mean the liquidation of all those men."

He said troops were guarding entrances to Camp Aguinaldo and I have asked commanders to prevent any movement of troops, whether ours or theirs." He declared: "I am still willing to (talk) if we can negotiate this matter instead of fighting it out." Mr. Marcos charged by Mrs. Aquino and the United States, until now his staunchest supporter during 20 years of power, with winning the election by fraud, violence and intimidation, was some- where for most of the press conference. Mr. Marcos claimed the alleged assassination was to have been carried by a Captain Ricardo Morales. But the plot was foiled after presidential and security officers captured some of the men and they confessed under interrogation, he said. Gen. Ramos, 57, a cousin of Mr. Marcos and named by him as successor to General Fabian Ver, said: "I think the president of 1986 is not the president we knew before and to whom we pledged our loyalty and our service."

"I am withdrawing my support for the president... it is my duty to see that the sovereign will of the people is respected. I am bothered by my conscience." Heavily armed soldiers guarded the Defence Ministry headquarters and a helicopter ferried in 10 sacks of weapons. Mr. Enrile, who has been with Mr. Marcos' government for 20 years, said Mr. Marcos' generals intended to arrest all leaders of the opposition and members of a military reform movement. "I imagine orders like this would come from the highest authority," Mr. Enrile said. Earlier in the day, Mr. Enrile was escorted from his home to the ministry by armed men but his bodyguards were allowed to accompany him. Army and paramilitary Philippine consular soldiers occupied the four-storey ministry building in Camp Aguinaldo, one of five military bases in and around Manila. Air force, marine and navy contingents were posted around the headquarters building. "We have friendly forces in the army, navy, air force and marines," Gen. Ramos told.

Gen. Salvador Mison, who commands troops in an area on southern islands, said he had seen Mr. Enrile inside the building. Asked if Mr. Enrile was being arrested, Gen. Mison said: "I don't know." Mrs. Aquino was in the central Philippines city of Cebu on Saturday campaigning for a boycott of Mr. Marcos' government. She announced she was setting up a government to take over if Mr. Marcos steps down. Mr. Enrile, asked whether he would serve Mrs. Aquino if she became president, replied: "I will not serve under Mrs. Aquino. I do not know if she will be installed."

Sharif Zaid, Nuseibeh meet Canadian defence college team

AMMAN (Petra) — Commander in Chief of the Jordanian Armed Forces General Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker Saturday met with a visiting delegation from the National Defence College in Canada and briefed them on the army's development, its role and duties. Gen. Sharif Zaid received the 60-member Canadian delegation, which is headed by Major General Ever, during a meeting at the army's general headquarters which also was attended by the army's chief of staff, Lieutenant General Fathi Abu Taleh, and a number of senior aides.

The delegation, which arrived here Thursday on a six-day visit, includes members of the college's staff and students. Later they visited the Martyr's Monument and were informed about the monument's displays and the history and principles of the Great Arab Revolt. Gen. Ever also watered the tree of life and recorded a message in the visitor's register.

On Saturday evening, the delegation was met by Deputy Foreign Minister and Minister of State for Prime Ministry Affairs Hazim Nuseibeh who told them that Jordan will maintain its support to the occupied West Bank and will provide the Arab people there with all means available to strengthen their steadfastness.

Dr. Nuseibeh, who was speaking at the World Affairs Council (WAC) in Amman, informed his guests about the content of His Majesty King Hussein's national speech in which the King said that Jordan was terminating joint political moves with the leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). He also briefed them on the latest developments in the Palestine

problem as well as the Israeli authorities' arbitrary measures directed against Palestinians living in the occupied lands.

Jordan, he said, in its search for peace remains committed to U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 which call for a just and durable solution to the Palestine problem and for the withdrawal of Israeli troops from the 1967 occupied lands.

Dr. Nuseibeh pointed out that the West Bank citizens are keen on maintaining strong relations with Jordan because of the historical factors that bind both peoples. Jordan also believes in the importance of Arab unity and solidarity and has spared no efforts to strengthen its relations with the Arab World in accordance with the Kingdom's firm belief in Arab unity, he added.

On Saturday afternoon, the delegation was also briefed on Jordan's socio-economic development by Dr. Akram Karmoul, director of industry at the Ministry of Trade and Industry.

They were briefed on the latest investment incentives to attract local and Arab investors. Dr. Karmoul reviewed the socio-economic and industrial boom and the high growth rates which the Kingdom recorded in the early 1980s.

He added that the government gave special support to the private sector and its role in pushing forward economic and industrial development. Dr. Karmoul also outlined Jordan's 1986-1990 development plan and its industrial priorities.

The delegation, which arrived here Thursday on a six-day visit, have visited Petra as part of a tour of archaeological sites.

Deputies express loyalty, appreciation to King for his commitment to Palestinian cause

Following is the text of a statement delivered to His Majesty King Hussein by Mr. Akel Al Fayez, speaker of the Lower House of Parliament, in an audience with the King following Saturday's session:

We, the representatives of the nation on both banks of Jordan, convey to Your Majesty greetings and respect and express total allegiance and loyalty to Your Hashemite Throne.

The members of the Lower House of Parliament heard the full text of Your Majesty's speech to the nation which was characterised by total frankness and contained all the facts and details about your efforts for serving the Palestine cause and ending the sufferings of the Palestinian people. The speech contained details of joint endeavours with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leadership and the political gains you have made on the international scene and with world public opinion, thanks to the great respect Your Majesty enjoys world-wide and your credibility in word and deed.

Your Majesty,

The deputies who represent the people on both banks of Jordan called Parliament to an emergency session on Saturday morning to review your address to the nation delivered on Wednesday and to study the present situation in view of that speech in service of the Arab Nation in general and the Arab people under Israeli rule in particular. The deputies who believe in your wise leadership deeply appreciate the great responsibility you are shouldering and the heavy national burden you have borne since assuming your constitutional powers in implementation of the message you inherited from your great grandfather who lived and died serving the Palestine cause and in defence of its Arab identity. This people and their representatives have absolute faith in the country's sacred constitution which was proclaimed in response to the will of the people of both banks and endorsed by Parliament, which groups representatives of both banks, on April 24, 1950.

Your Majesty,

In your joint efforts with the

both banks express our absolute support for your decision which you and your government were forced to take. We also back Your Majesty's declaration for Jordan's continued support for the Arab people under Israeli rule in the face of Israel's ill practices and support your decision to extend every possible help within Jordan's resources and capabilities. We renew a pledge, to Your Majesty to remain as we have always been, loyal to your throne and faithful to our common cause, extending help to one another and bearing responsibility and assuming duty in the course of serving our nation's interests.

Your Majesty,

Jordan has borne the Palestine burden since the emergence of the problem and a long time before the creation of the PLO because Jordan had been striving to serve pan-Arab causes and achieve its aspirations. This mission started with the creation of Jordan at the start of the present century. Your Majesty has inherited this mission and the standard has been handed down to you and you have been true to the mission and the call issued by your great grandfather Al Hussein Ibn Ali for uniting the Arabs and enabling them to gain freedom and a better life. You have also inherited the mission and leadership from your grandfather King Abdullah Ibn Al Hussein and you have helped to forge the unity of the two banks of Jordan. Because of this and more, you will remain our hope and the source of our determination. Our duty on both banks is to show support for your throne and serve as faithful soldiers under your leadership. We will not spare anything but will sacrifice all that we can offer and prevent our Palestine cause from remaining frozen, but we believe that we should ensure sound movement for our efforts within a pan-Arab framework and we should intensify our positive actions to attain the best results. We are determined to help in removing the state of desperation and occupation, and restore confidence and freedom and independence.

Your Majesty,

Our house appreciates your decision after two long experiences with the PLO to stop coordinating policies with its leadership. We, as representatives of the people on

both banks express our absolute support for your decision which you and your government were forced to take. We also back Your Majesty's declaration for Jordan's continued support for the Arab people under Israeli rule in the face of Israel's ill practices and support your decision to extend every possible help within Jordan's resources and capabilities. We renew a pledge, to Your Majesty to remain as we have always been, loyal to your throne and faithful to our common cause, extending help to one another and bearing responsibility and assuming duty in the course of serving our nation's interests.

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King receives more backing, support for national policy

Fateh officers, delegations from Karak and Palestinian representatives deliver messages in audiences with King Hussein

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Saturday received further backing and support for his national stand vis-a-vis the Palestine problem and his endeavours to safeguard the Palestinian people's rights in their homeland.

Among those expressing support for the King were the officers and troops of the Jordan-based Al Karameh military camp set up by Fateh, the mainstream command faction of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). The camp officers and non-commissioned officers were received in audience at the Royal Court by His Majesty King Hussein and their speaker, Lt.-Col. Jibril Shalash, said that his men totally support King Hussein's address to the nation and his efforts for ending the Israeli occupation of Arab territory.

In his address Wednesday evening, the King gave an in-depth review of Jordan's efforts for a just solution to the Palestinian problem and he said the Kingdom was terminating joint political moves with the PLO leadership. We have fully grasped Your Majesty's speech and understand the relentless efforts you are making to liberate Palestinian land and to secure freedom for the Arab people now living under Israeli rule," Dr. Shalash said in his speech before the King.

Dr. Shalash said: "The unity of the two banks of Jordan and their peoples is historic and sacred and we support every step aimed at regaining the legitimate and national rights of the two peoples. We totally support and adhere to the Jordanian-Palestinian accord signed on Feb. 11, 1985 which embodies the foundations of the historic relationship between the two peoples and appeal to Your Majesty to maintain this accord as a foundation for that mutual relationship."

King Hussein later received notables representing Karak Governorate who came to voice support for the King's national policy. Delivering a speech on behalf of the delegation was Karak Deputy Governor Nuzh Ammarin who said that the King's speech presented a detailed assessment of the developments in the Palestine problem and a candid and open explanation of the talks with the PLO and the challenges Jordan and the Palestinians are facing as a result of the no-war no-peace situation. He said that this situation opens the way for resolving the Palestine issue at the expense of Jordan, and this country has become a direct target for Israel's expansionist plans.

Therefore, Mr. Ammarin said, the Jordanian people support King Hussein's relentless efforts designed to bring about an end to occupation and to liberate Holy places in Palestine.

Also speaking was Mr. Abdullah Al Bustanji who represented the Palestinians living in Karak Governorate. He said that the Palestinians people were looking to the King for achieving a just and durable peace that would ensure the return of the usurped lands.

Representatives of various public sectors in Jordan called at the Royal Court Saturday to express their support for the King. These

represented trade unions, chambers of commerce and industry, bedouin tribes and representatives of Palestinian refugee camps. Their speakers voiced support for the King and renewed allegiance to the Hashemite throne.

Speakers included Mahmoud Daghsh from the refugee camps in Zarqa, Faisal Faqawi from Schneller camp and Deputy Director of the Zarqa Chamber of Commerce Mohammad Yassin.

Representatives of the Dajani family in both banks of Jordan also visited the Royal Court and expressed their support and allegiance to King Hussein.

Higher Committee for Palestine cables King

Also Saturday, the Higher Arab Committee for Palestine (HACP) expressed full support for the King and said in a cable that the King's address to the nation was a historic document, providing further evidence of the Hashemite family's struggle to preserve the rights of the Arab people in Palestine.

In the cable, the committee said that it held a meeting to discuss the details of the King's address and decided to renew allegiance to the Hashemite throne and to bless every step taken by the King.

The HACP served as a representative of the Palestinian people before the establishment of the PLO and following the occupation of Palestine in 1948.

The cable voiced the committee's deep appreciation to King Hussein for his strenuous efforts to serve the Palestinian cause.

The Royal Court announced that it received thousands of cables of support for the King.

Jordan to take part in talks on housing for needy people

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan will take part in a meeting of Arab countries to mark the international year for giving shelter to the homeless, Housing Corporation Director General Shafiq Zawaidh announced here Saturday.

He said that the five-day meeting, which is to be held in Dubai on April 8th, will discuss the objectives of the United Nations General Assembly declaration on activities in this international year, 1987, which will focus on ways to improve housing conditions for needy people in developing nations from 1987 and until the year 2000.

The meeting is organised by the Ministry of Public Works and Housing in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) in cooperation with the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (UNCHS).

According to Mr. Zawaidh, who will lead Jordan's delegation to the meeting, the Arab delegates will discuss the implementation of housing projects and ways to improve poor districts. They will also discuss exchanging expertise and information between Arab countries dealing with national plans and activities in 1987 to help the homeless find shelter and decent accommodation. The meeting will also address itself to housing problems that are of concern to countries in the Arab region and the Arab nation's general plans during the international year, Mr. Zawaidh added.

He said that during 1987 efforts will be made to obtain firm commitments from governments of the region to improve the housing conditions of very poor and needy people. During the year, they will also try to provide shelter for the homeless through housing projects and housing schemes to be implemented between 1987 and 2000.

At a special side meeting, representatives of various governments will present reports on housing programmes which are to be implemented during 1987, Mr. Zawaidh continued.

Mr. Zawaidh will be accompanied by a delegation grouping representatives of the Housing Corporation and the Urban Development Department. He said that the delegation will submit two working papers to the conference; the first dealing with Jordan's urban development projects to be carried out during 1987 and the other on Jordan's policy for financing housing projects.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Tarawneh to attend civil defence talks

AMMAN (J.T.) — Civil Defence Director General Khaled Al Tarawneh left for Geneva Saturday to take part in a conference on civil defence due to open on Feb. 25. The two-day international conference is scheduled to discuss matters related to civil defence. The meeting is organised by the International Civil Defence Organisation (ICDO) which was established in 1966 to intensify and coordinate, on a world-wide scale, the development and improvement of organisation, means and techniques for preventing and reducing the consequences of natural disasters in peacetime or the use of weapons in time of conflict.

Deputy mayor of Paris due next month

AMMAN (Petra) — The deputy mayor of Paris is due here at the beginning of the next month heading an official delegation on a six-day visit to Jordan. During the visit they will meet with Amman Mayor Abdul Ra'uf Al Rawabdeh and a number of officials. The deputy mayor will also hold talks on bilateral relations between the Jordanian and French capitals in the fields of technical and administrative training and scholarships, gardens and parks, food and health control, as well as traffic and road maintenance.

CAA director leaves for Cairo

AMMAN (Petra) — Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) Director General Khaled Mohammad Ali Saturday left for Cairo on a three-day visit to Egypt. Mr. Ali will hold talks with the director general of the Egyptian Civil Aviation Corporation on a bilateral air transport agreement and on ways of bolstering bilateral cooperation in air transport affairs.

Hijaz Railway board holds meeting

AMMAN (Petra) — Increasing the volume of goods transported by rail between Amman and Damascus was the topic of discussion during a meeting of the board of directors of the Jordan-Hijaz Railway held Saturday under the chairmanship of Minister of Transport and the board's chairman Farhi Obeid. The meeting also discussed a number of issues related to the conditions of the railway's employees.

Jordan, Egypt to discuss meat production

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Agriculture has welcomed the visit of an Egyptian agricultural delegation which will visit Jordan for five days to discuss setting up a joint Jordanian-Egyptian company for meat production.

'Jordan will not substitute for Palestinians'

(Continued from page 1)

in the two banks, and approved by Parliament which represents both banks of the Kingdom on April 24, 1950," the statement said.

It said the House of Deputies "were deeply disappointed in the PLO leadership's position in the light of the threats which face the people in the Israeli-occupied territories."

In the House debate which preceded the adoption of the statement, a number of deputies praised the King's speech describing it as "historical, comprehensive and candid."

A number of deputies, mostly those who represent West Bank constituencies, appealed to the King to proceed ahead in his efforts to find a just and durable peace in the Middle East "to save the people from the Israeli occupation."

West Bank deputies said that the people they represent were looking forward for a successful coordination between Jordan and the PLO. However, they said, they totally support and understand the King's step.

Although most deputies did not severely condemn the PLO leadership's position, they accused it of "wasting a chance for achieving peace in the area."

Several deputies went further in their criticising the PLO by raising questions about the legitimacy of the Rabat Arab summit resolution of 1974 which recognised the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

"We were not consulted on that decision," a number of deputies pointed out.

These deputies, however, steered away from an explicit rejection of the Rabat summit resolution and some of them appealed to PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat to reconsider his position and accept the American offer, which was secured through Jordan's efforts, of a formal invitation to an international conference on the Middle East in return for the PLO's acceptance of United Nations Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

Both Jordan and the PLO have repeatedly called for the convening of an international conference in which the Security Council's five permanent members and all parties involved, including the PLO, will participate.

The deputies' public criticism of the PLO and the Rabat summit resolution was the first of its kind since the restoration of Parliament two years ago. A number of them repeatedly pointed out that they were expressing the opinion of the people in the West Bank since they "were directly elected by them."

Deputy of Balqa in the East Bank Zohair Dougan suggested that the West Bank representatives convey their views to the Arab League and the United Nations which recognised the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

In general, most of the deputies who spoke on Saturday's session supported the idea that Jordan pursue peace efforts. The only exception was Muslim fundamentalist deputies who declared that the only way to solve the Palestinian question and restore the usurped Arab territories was through a military confrontation with Israel.

The Muslim fundamentalist deputies, represented by Yusef Al Adem, argued that the next step should be a total mobilisation of Jordan's efforts and a declaration of a jihad against Israel.

West Bank deputies, however, strongly argued in favour of the King's strategy, citing the deteriorating conditions of the Palestinian people under the Israeli occupation.

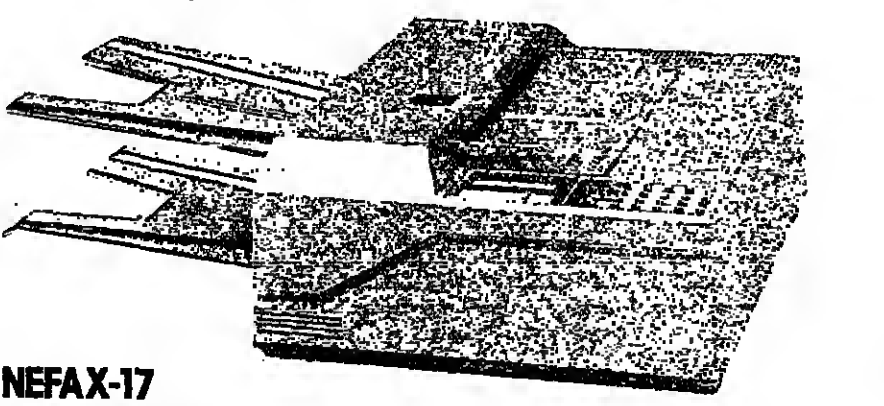
The deputies urged the Arab countries to fulfil their financial obligations towards Jordan in order to support the steadfastness of people in the occupied Arab territories.

Deputy of Ramallah Nicola Akel said he totally supported the view that the people in the Israeli-occupied territories should be the main concern in any political efforts to find a solution to the Palestinian question. He reiterated commitment to the unity between the Jordanian and Palestinian people which is manifested in the constitutional unity of the two banks.

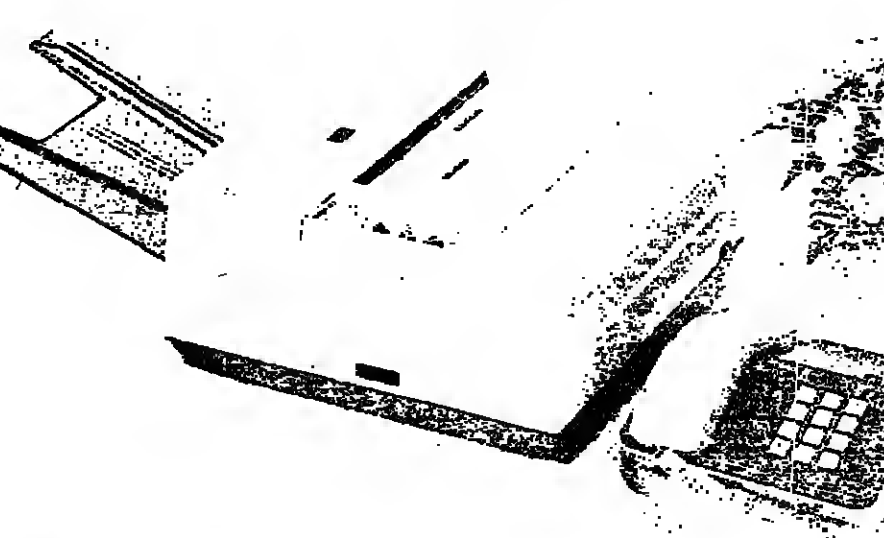
Mr. Akel, 33, the youngest member of Parliament, criticised the PLO's demand that the United States recognise the Palestinian people's right to self-determination. The unity between the Jordanian and the Palestinian people "expresses the Palestinian right to self-determination," he

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Leader's vision should prevail

HIS MAJESTY King Hussein, in his interview with the Cable News Network broadcast yesterday, made it clear that, following the break in talks with the PLO leadership, this is a time to face up to the realities of the situation in the Middle East. This means that this current period is one for reassessment and reflection, and not — as some people would have it — a chance to allow the area to slide further into uncertainty, instability and eventually disaster.

The American people, Congress and administration to whom the King addressed his words in the first place, must not doubt be aware of the tremendousness of efforts that Jordan had exerted to start a meaningful peace process and to make it work. And it is they, more than anybody else perhaps, who should now try to listen more carefully and respond more positively to what His Majesty has to say. The rest of us should do likewise of course, for everybody has his crucial role to play for peace. But the U.S., as the King pointed out in the interview, is also responsible for the failure of this herculean peace effort since there was a great deal of procrastination on its part at the very beginning. Had this not been the case, we might have reached a more positive point in the joint effort, or otherwise we might have reached this point, sad as it is, much earlier indeed.

Where the U.S. can be of the utmost help, from now on, is in working to realise — or admit — that the right of self-determination is as sacred to the Palestinians and to us as it is or should be to the people of the U.S. and the rest of the world. Having said this in so many words to the Americans, and right after exposing everything that happened over the past year to the Palestinian and Jordanian peoples and the Arab Nation at large, the King has once again demonstrated his unquestionable wisdom and the uniqueness and centrality of his position and role in the peace effort. This also goes a long way to prove the soundness and bravery of the stance that Jordan has always adopted on the Palestinian problem. For, among all the parties concerned, only the King's position had had all the reasonableness and moderation and common ground that are necessary to a lasting and honourable settlement acceptable to all.

It is His Majesty's vision that is about the only thing left with a hope for achieving Middle East peace. And it is this vision indeed that must guide us all in this difficult period of reflection and reassessment which is so truly necessary for peace.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: No total boycott

THE Western media have been presenting King Hussein's decision to end political coordination with the PLO for the time being as a total boycott of relations between Jordan and the PLO. Also the Israeli media described the move as helping the Israelis in their present position. All these interpretations are wrong and reflect the presence of evil intentions. Whoever has read the speech in detail must have realised that Jordan would continue to adhere fully to the unity of the Palestinian and Jordanian people and that the suspension of talks between the two leaderships would by no means affect this strong relationship or would it ever cause an estrangement between the PLO and Jordan. The move does not mean differences on the objective but rather a temporary break in the course of coordinating efforts. This does not mean any change in the Jordanian position which continues to regard Israel as responsible for the lack of progress in efforts towards peace because of Israel's ill practices in the occupied Arab territory and its insistence on denying the rights of the Palestinian people. The King's speech served as a frank talk to the people, and as a call on all the Arab people to understand the Jordanian view vis-a-vis the Palestine problem.

Al Dustour: To counter enemy designs

THE overwhelming support by all sectors of the Jordanian public exhibited towards the King in the wake of his historical address to the nation last Wednesday, reflects the deep and genuine appreciation of the people and of the relentless efforts he has been exerting to serve the Palestine cause. It is because the people realise the seriousness of the situation which the King is confronting at this stage in the course of handling the Palestine problem, that made them express their backing for his stands and for his endeavours. The people realise that the basic element in this issue is the land which as King Hussein said should be preserved and safeguarded and liberated from Zionist rule. The Israelis have been after this land, trying with all their plots and plans to seize as much of our land as possible, and to build settlements on it. The Israelis have been confiscating land from its legitimate owners and evicting the Arabs from their homeland ever since they came to Palestine. The Jordanian strategy has been based on countering these policies and directed towards liberating the land of Palestine from Israeli occupation. The Jordanian leadership has realised that the present no-war, no-peace situation is bound to help the Israelis to perpetuate their occupation of our land and so it is now exerting all possible efforts to thwart Israel's aims.

Sawt Al Shaab: National support

THE all-out support and backing by the people for their leader represent evidence of cohesion between the leadership of this country and the Jordanian people. This prompt response reflects the people's realisation of the grave danger this nation is confronting, and the great endeavours by King Hussein to meet them. All public institutions and individuals on both banks were quick to react and to show their full support for the King in his efforts to liberate the land and safeguard Arab rights. The people responded favourably to the King's speech since they realise the need for this nation to define its political course of action and to try to define the priorities. Throughout his life, King Hussein has been striving to achieve what is best for his country and to serve his people and has defined the priorities for serving this people. By his actions and service, the King has won credibility and has won the respect and support from all his people.

Sunday's Economic Pulse

Americans agree to eliminate budget deficit, differ on how

IT was, no doubt, because of this weekly economic column, that I was invited to spend four weeks in the United States under the International Visitor Programme, arranged to update economic writers from 15 countries on the U.S. economy. Having returned from this interesting experience, I feel obliged to report to my readers on my findings.

The official purpose of the programme was: "To provide participants with a better understanding of the economic system and the economic policy-making process of the United States and major economic issues."

The programme included briefings and discussions with many public and private institutions and individuals, such as: the chairman of the Council of Economic Advisors, the Congress Joint Economic Committee, representatives from the Departments of

Commerce and Treasury, the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, the Chamber of Commerce, labour unions, think tanks, universities, banks, high technology corporations, the New York Stock Exchange, the Federal Reserve Bank, several media giants including the New York Times, the Wall Street Journal, and U.S. News, local governments at the levels of state and country, legislatures, farmers' unionists and many others.

Against each official representing the administration's point of view, we met others who presented the opposition, asserting that the administration's policies were wrong, insensitive, unrealistic, and would not work.

My overall impression is that, this was an extremely pluralistic society, with various conflicting interests and viewpoints, interacting in a free

environment, but within the limits of the law.

The huge deficit of the budget was still the major issue in the United States. There was a consensus that it was dangerous and must be eliminated but, there was disagreement on how this objective could be achieved.

President Reagan and the supply-side economists are for the cutdown on social programmes. The opposition and the Democrats are for higher taxes and cutdown on defence. The deadlock resulted in the Gramm-Rudman Bill which is expected to trigger reductions in certain expenditures across the board. The controversial bill was passed into law, but it was challenged in the Supreme Court which decided that the law was not constitutional.

On the economic projections, it is interesting that none predicts an imminent recession as was feared a year ago.

Most economists believed that growth will continue at a satisfactory pace during 1986.

In general, it was expected that inflation will pick up during this year, the dollar will be weaker, interest rates may stay at approximately the present level, money supply will continue its rapid growth, while large scale protectionism was almost ruled out.

However, no economist ventured to give longer term projections. They agreed that economists have a pretty dismal record when it comes to forecasting. Apparently there was no point in worrying about the state of the economy ten or five or even three years into the future. When that future arrives, the problems and proposed solutions are likely to be completely different from present expectations.

At my questioning, Gersa Feketecky, of the U.S. Trade Representative, defended the

Free Trade Zone agreement with Israel, and claimed that the same arrangement was available to any interested Arab country including Jordan. Although I doubt that this is true, yet I am almost sure that Jordan is not interested in such partnership, because our infant industries cannot withstand American competition without adequate protection.

In another meeting with Chris Mathew, the chief assistant to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, I inquired about the reasons preventing America from playing a constructive peace-making role in the Middle East, as a superpower which should be even-handed. Mathew snapped back that Carter tried to be even-handed "but can you tell me what happened to him?" and where he is now? Mathew also noted that "it is obvious that your King is for just peace."

and that the President of the United States can do something about it, but apparently he is not interested. Not due to lack of understanding or conviction, but because of local political considerations." After a pause he added: "When you, Jordanians, have two million votes in the United States, come and see me."

About the arms deal to Jordan, which was blocked by the Congress, Mathew insisted that Mr. Reagan was not serious about it, and that he only referred the papers to the Congress in a routine manner without giving any signal that the deal was essential for the American interests in the Middle East, and for the administration's foreign policy in the region. Reagan, Mathew admitted, could have definitely got the deal approved if he were to make the effort, but why should he anger the Israeli lobby?

King: It is time for reassessment

(Continued from page 1)

across River Jordan and make it impossible for the Israelis to expel Palestinians to the East Bank, the King said: "I would hope that things would never reach that point. But I certainly see indications of growing annexation... to now a problem of maybe a minority at this stage within Israel that seeks to dominate the entire occupied area, and only whether this could happen is through expelling people from it. This is really a very alarming development."

Asked whether he thought the destabilisation of Jordan would become a policy of the Israeli government in such an event, the King said: "This is precisely what I am saying."

Replying to a question on the U.S. decision to shelve arms sales to Jordan, the King said his "interpretation is that the U.S., after 30 years of a very close relationship... has decided, chosen to terminate this relationship." But, he said, "arms can be bought elsewhere and will be with whatever means we have available."

"We are looking at all options, including the Soviet option," he said. The King said the improvement in Jordanian-Syrian relations had nothing to do with the American decision to shelve arms sales to Jordan. "The Jordanian-Syrian relations are an aspect of Arab relations which were of interest to the majority of Arab states. It was Arab mediation that brought about the first renewed contact. I believe that in Syria they have their view and we have our views on many matters and we have our differences."

Question: Your Majesty, does this mean stalemate, at least a temporary stalemate, in the peace process as far as the Palestinian issue goes? Answer: I believe it means that we have to face up to realities. I have had to do that and at the same time it is a period of reassessment for the Palestinian people and the Arab people. I felt it my duty to expose all that has happened to a people who after all are affected by conditions in our part of the world and who have the right to know where we are now. Q: Do you think Sir, it moves this troubled area closer or away from the possibility of renewed conflict? A: If we fail in our continued attempts to secure a just, durable peace, then obviously the chances for disaster overtaking this area and who live in it are very real and I felt throughout the recent past and I feel now that we do not have much time. Hopefully, efforts for the establishment of a just and durable peace will continue. Q: Your Majesty, you broke with Yasser Arafat because of lack of confidence in him. There has been a lack of confidence in Yasser Arafat in my country, the U.S. also. Do you think that President

Reagan could find some new opening, some new hope for the U.S. in this hopefully temporary break in the peace process?

A: I cannot say whether it could be possible or otherwise. But I do feel that the U.S. has always had a very important role to play to secure justice, peace and a better future for generations to come in our part of the world and in the world as a whole.

On the other hand, the only option I had when we failed to not only reach agreement but agreement based on the implementation of earlier commitments, I felt that this was something that has to be brought to the attention of the Palestinian people and the people of Jordan and the Arabs and the world indeed. And this is what I have done, and I think that the period ahead will see a reappraisal by all.

Q: Leaving out the arms question for the moment, do you find any fault with the U.S. in the way this process has gone this heavy effort that you have put in to this in the last year?

A: One wouldn't be right to say that I could have nothing to (afford) the U.S., for I think the U.S. is also responsible. At the very beginning of our joint effort, there was a great deal of procrastination, and otherwise we might have reached this point or overtaken it in a positive sense much earlier than now.

Q: Do you think the U.S. should now express a determination on its part to give self-determination to the Palestinians on the West Bank?

A: As far as self-determination, it is a principle that is very much at the root of your thinking and your history and your feelings in the U.S. And the right to self-determination and for the people of Palestine and it is as sacred to us as it is or should be to the people of the U.S.

Q: You have always said, Sir, no to separate negotiations between Jordan and Israel.

A: I understand it on the grounds that Palestinian and the Jordanian problems are inextricably twin. They are one problem when it comes to the Israeli issue and the West Bank issue.

Can you now develop contacts and communion in negotiations with other Palestinian leaders on the West Bank?

A: The problem is before the Palestinian people, and the most important objective we have is to ensure that they somehow regain their rights on their lost territory and our particular concerns are people on the occupied territories the West Bank and Gaza as well as Palestinians everywhere in terms of their rights. The problem is with them now and I hope that a debate will not take too long before we reach a point where we can identify where the Palestinians wish us to go.

Q: Are you trying to determine that now and trying to find pos-

sible new sources of where you can bring in new negotiators among the Palestinians?

A: We adhere to a concept of the agreement of the 11th of February of last year in terms of the balanced Palestinian-Jordanian relationship facing a common destiny and at the same time we agree to the concept, and we always recognised it of the organisation that should represent the people of Palestine. The question is: Is it doing so in the actions that it has taken recently or not? And the answer must come from the Palestinians themselves.

Q: But your feeling right now is that the PLO, the answer is no, is that fair?

A: When I spoke to Mr. Arafat twice and again I told him my view that his greatest strength was in his constituency, I believe this constituency to be in the occupied territory, the West Bank and Gaza as well as elsewhere and it is my hope somehow that the Palestinian leadership will always reflect the hopes, aspirations and sufferings of the people and their yearnings for peace with dignity and for a better future.

Q: But separate talks between you and the Israelis are still out of the question?

A: We cannot talk on behalf of the Palestinians. We have to have a clear mandate.

Q: You have a comment for me, Your Majesty, on the reaction of the prime minister of Israel, Mr. Peres, and Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin, both of whom see a favourable light coming from this decision that you announced in your speech this week. Would you comment on that, do you think that... does that give you any reason for hope?

A: Not particularly.

Q: What is Soviet policy today with respect to Mr. Arafat? Do they try to undermine Arafat and then do they try to undermine your effort to get to go along with this plan that you have been working so hard on? Did they actually work against your interests with Arafat?

A: In describing the PLO as I have seen it evolve over the years it was fairly obvious throughout the years that the PLO in terms of different groups within it have different affiliations and therefore are susceptible to different influences. However, the official Soviet position regarding our efforts has been the rejection of the Feb. 11 accord explained in the following way that they were for the unity of all elements within the PLO and that they felt this accord represented something that emerged from a division within the PLO.

Q: The Israeli government is going to shift as you know this fall to the Likud; the right wing is going to take over the prime ministry. As you said in your speech, Sir, that the one thing that you have to worry about is the Israelis evicting the Palestinians from the West

Bank through force, through military force, if that should happen, let me ask you, is this in the back of the minds of the Likud?

A: Certainly some elements within the Likud and some extremist elements that we see emerging and growing in strength in the occupied territory as well as Israel, of course.

Q: If that happened, if it became an Israeli policy to take control for good sovereignty of the West Bank and drive out the Palestinians, what could Jordan, which is not a large country, do? A: I believe that the whole area would face disaster.

Q: Would you as far as tell me, Your Majesty, that if the Israelis try to do anything like this, you would close the bridges and make it impossible for them to succeed that way?

A: I would hope that things would never reach that point. But I certainly see indications of growing annexation. That was a phase almost in the past. To now a problem of maybe a minority at this stage within Israel that seeks to dominate the entire occupied area, and only whether this could happen is through expelling people from it. This is really a very alarming development.

Q: The destabilisation of Jordan would become a policy of the Israeli government in such an event? A: This is precisely what I am saying.

Q: Can you think this is a real possibility? A: Yes.

Q: Do you think the U.S. could stop a policy that was aimed at that objective.

A: In the past I used to take assurances from our friends seriously. In light of recent happenings in terms of the impact of AIPAC and the extreme right in Israel on the domestic scene in the U.S., I really begin to wonder.

Q: Do you think that process is going faster, not slower in the U.S.?

A: I believe the influence is pretty serious now.

Q: Let me turn to the arms question. You many years ago asked our country to sell some arms that you regard as vital to the defence of Jordan, mainly anti-aircraft and some aeroplanes, and President Reagan has given you his commitment to do so. What is your reaction now that he is reneged on that commitment? Am I using the wrong word maybe he did not reneged?

A: He was unable, as he explained in me, to pursue the matter any further and so to defer it. But my interpretation is that the U.S. after 30 years of a very close relationship between Jordan and the U.S. in this particular area of the military, has decided, chosen to terminate this relationship. It was a relationship that was to our mutual benefit. It was part of the relationship which was to the mutual benefit of the U.S. and Jordan in

many ways if it has had any effect. Arms can be bought elsewhere and will be, with whatever means we have available. It has certainly undermined the credibility of the U.S. in terms of promises and commitments to the U.S. here.

Q: Your Majesty, you have often said that arms are available mainly from two sources, the two superpowers.

One, the U.S., has now said no. You spoke of the possibility of looking elsewhere. Is it possible on the air defence side that you look to the Soviet Union for help?

A: It is possible Sir, we are looking in Europe and we are looking further afield to the Soviet Union as well.

Q: But your word to me is that you feel the U.S. has terminated this long 30 years of U.S.-Jordanian cooperation. That is a strong word terminate. It would mean that you might be looking to the Soviets for major arms of major categories in the indefinite future. What effect would that have on your relationship with the U.S. and the West?

A: Certainly in terms of the term "terminated," this is how it appears to me at the moment. We are assured that the U.S. would like to keep relationship with us.

But in terms of our needs and requirements the U.S. has stopped being the major supplier of defensive weapons to Jordan... that is what I meant with the term "terminated" the relationship.

We will have to seek to get these arms from elsewhere. We are looking at all options including the Soviet option.

Q: Let me ask you about Syria. You have had a confrontation with the Syrians for some years now, which ended several months ago. You have been to Damascus and I understand that President Assad is coming to visit you in the next few weeks perhaps. What is the meaning of this change, Sir?

A: It has been, I believe, a return to what should be case between two neighbouring Arab states. We hope that President Assad will visit Jordan some time soon.

We certainly issued the invitation when I visited Damascus and as for the improvement in relations, it has always been our wish that we should have the best relations with all our Arab brothers, and in fact we may be unique in Jordan in having succeeded in having relations with so many within the Arab World despite differences.

Q: Do you think, Your Majesty, the fact that President Reagan and the U.S. congress decided not to make that sale of arms to you has had an impact on your view on the Syrian situation — a subtle impact?

A: No, Sir, I don't think it has. I don't believe it has in any way. The Jordanian-Syrian relations again are an aspect of Arab relations which were of interest to the majority of Arab states. It was Arab mediation that brought

about the first renewed contacts. I believe that in Syria they have their view and we have our views on many matters and we have our differences.

But the differences as far as we are concerned in Jordan have never been personal as they have been on issues. Hopefully the renewed contacts will enable us to address these issues and try to resolve them in time.

Q: Can you see, Your Majesty, yourself and President Assad, perhaps coming up with some new ideas, some new plan, with the West Bank that was not feasible before? Is that conceivable?

A: I suppose anything is conceivable, Sir. But we haven't had the opportunity to discuss this. This problem hasn't arisen before this moment.

We obviously will discuss the problem when we meet next. But I would like to point out one aspect of Syrian foreign policy defined of late again. Syria is also interested in an international conference to resolve the Middle East problem in its entirety.

Q: You said in your speech, Your Majesty, that from the very beginning, in your opinion, Israel's goal has been, and I quote you "to expand the territory of Israel."

As an innocent American viewer of the scene out here not understanding it very well, how far, tell me, how far Israel wants to expand its territory in your opinion?

A: Well, as far as I can see, the immediate future, certainly the whole of Palestine. And to consolidate there and I don't think it is a strange expression to American public, certainly not one that is strange to American public opinion of late to have heard from the Israelis and many of their friends the suggestions that Jordan is Palestine.

Q: You are telling me, Sir, in your opinion it is conceivable that Jordan, part of Jordan itself is within the purview of what the Israeli expansion that you see coming, or that you perhaps, see coming, that could include parts of Jordan itself?

A: If people who are extreme in their views and who are at variance with their precepts on which Israel was created in the first place are able to gain power in Israel I believe they will rely on their military strength, and I believe that Jordan then becomes their prime target.

Q: With the rotation of government in Israel, the Peres government leaving, the Likud coming in November, does that, do you think end any chance of serious progress in the peace process?

A: I can't say that, but I suppose we will have to watch and see. Q: But you don't feel easier working with the Likud government than you would with Mr. Peres? A: Not judging by the previous track record of Likud.

Iraqi commander reports breakthrough

(Continued from page 1)

sides of the narrow road which connects the Iraqi naval base at Umm Qasr with Fao.

"There were thousands more bodies, but we buried them. This area we are digging through was liberated recently, the colonel said as the thud of artillery explosions echoed across the desert.

Multi-muzzled Iraqi rocket launchers repeatedly opened up on Fao, firing hundreds of rockets as tanks and Howitzer guns pounded the city.

The Iraqi News Agency (INA) quoted the commander of Iraq's Seventh Army Corps in charge of the Fao salient, as stating that "the hour of the final showdown at Fao is very close."

On Friday, Lieutenant-General Hisham Sahah Al Fakhri, the commander of a tank column on the outskirts of Fao, told foreign correspondents at his command post that fighting was ferocious.

Gen. Fakhri, who is deputy

peninsula had cut them off from the land side.

Iran's official Tehran Radio, in its midday news bulletin, claimed the shooting down of three Iraqi jets Saturday morning. This raised to 53 the total jets Iran has claimed it has downed since it launched its offensive across the Shatt Al Arab waterway 13 days ago. The radio made no reference to ground fighting.

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Gen. Fakhri, who is deputy

chief of staff of the Iraqi armed forces, was recently transferred to the southern sector of the 1,180-kilometre front line with Iran to command part of the special task force assigned to liberate the Iranian-occupied territory.

The Iranians, Gen. Fakhri said, were "doomed to lose the war."

Iranian leader Ayatollah Ruhollah "Khomeini is not exactly a Hitler. Hitler had reached the outskirts of Moscow, but was later besieged in Berlin by the allied forces who chose to liberate their lands," the Iraqi general said.

Gen. Fakhri said 10 Iranian divisions comprising 150,000 soldiers had initially crossed into Iraq in various parts of the Shatt Al Arab waterway Feb. 9.

He refused to give an estimate of the size of the Iranian force currently entrenched in Fao.

U.N. finalises resolution

(Continued from page 1)

called on to refrain from any act that might lead to further escalation of the war.

In Amman, the Jordanian Dentists Association (JDA) on Saturday issued a statement in which it condemned Iran's aggression on Iraq and called on all "Arab national forces to mobilise their resources and efforts to back Iraq in its steadfastness and efforts to defend the Arab Nation."

The statement urged Arab countries to implement the Arab League defence pact and help Iraq in repelling the Iranian aggression. It also appealed to all "regional and international organisations to make every possible effort to stop the war and help the two countries to start peace talks."

regime has recently made its intentions clear and said that it wants to reach the other countries in the Gulf region after occupying Basra and Fao in Iraq."

It said that the new Iranian offensive comes at a time "when the U.S. naval fleet threatens Libya and the Israelis step up their arbitrary actions in the occupied Arab territories."

In Bahrain, Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) Secretary-General Sharifuddin Pirzadeh discussed the latest upsurge in fighting in the Iran-Iraq war with Bahrain's leaders.

His talks with Bahrain's emir, Sheikh Isa Bin Salman Al Khalifa, and Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammed Ibn Mubarak Al Khalifa also covered the Palestinian problem and an OIC summit scheduled to be held in Kuwait in March next year, the Gulf News

Agency reported. Pakistan has called for immediate meeting of OIC Islamic peace committee to try to end the Iran-Iraq war, a government statement said in Islamabad.

It said the request had been conveyed to Mr. Pirzadeh, all other members of the committee were also being informed of the initiative.

In Damascus, senior envoys of Iran and Saudi Arabia were expected to meet Syrian President Hafez Al Assad separately on Saturday to discuss the latest flare-up in the Iran-Iraq war, political sources told Reuters.

Visits to Damascus by Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal and Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister Ali Bashari came amid indications Tehran might be ready to discuss its war and economic aims with Iran's Arab allies.

Argentine actress hesitated before taking award-winning role

By Mary Powers
Reporter

NEW YORK — When actress Norma Aleandro was offered the lead in an Argentine film about the thousands who disappeared under military rule, she considered turning it down, fearing danger for herself and her family.

Now, "The Official Story," a fictional account of one woman's encounter with the world of "los desaparecidos," has won international acclaim and several awards. This month it was nominated for two Hollywood Oscars, for best foreign film and best original screenplay.

The film's subject — the estimated 30,000 people who disappeared during eight years of military rule — was still sensitive in 1983 as Argentina moved toward democracy.

The director Luis Puenzo and fellow screenwriter Aida Borkick received threats during the production of "The Official Story," and Aleandro's five-year-old daughter, was threatened with kidnapping.

"I was afraid. I thought it might bring reprisals against me and my family and that we might have to return to exile," Aleandro told Reuters in a recent interview during a visit to New York.

The Argentine actress had spoken out against the military regime and was forced to flee Argentina in 1977 when her home and the theatre where she worked were bombed and she received a note telling her to leave the country. She returned from exile in 1983.

Director Puenzo, gambling his life savings and his career as a television producer on the film, was forced to look for backers outside Argentina because of its controversial theme.

The movie has its debut in Argentina in 1985 just as the human rights trials against the former military rulers were getting under way. A year later, some of those rulers are behind bars and the film has played successfully in Europe and North and Latin America.

Besides the Oscar nominations, "The Official Story" was awarded the Golden Globe by the Hollywood Foreign Press Association for best foreign-language film.

Aleandro, well-known to audiences in the Spanish-speaking world, has awards for best actress from the Cannes and Chicago film festivals and the New York film critics. She concentrated on the role in the past but sees the film as a turning point that has helped her become known as a movie actress.

"It has been one of the nice surprises in life," Aleandro said, "to find that suddenly everyone is enchanted with something that has cost so much blood, sweat and tears."

Critics have showered Aleandro with praise for her portrayal of Alicia, a naive high school history teacher who is horrified to learn that her adopted daughter may have been one of the children of suspected subversives kidnapped by death squads during the so-called "dirty war."

Alicia's determined search for the truth leads her to the grandmothers of the Plaza De Mayo, a group which for years carried out a courageous campaign seeking information about missing loved ones.

The footage for those scenes was filmed in documentary style at protests during the final days of the military regime.

The experience transforms Alicia, shattering her sheltered, upper middle-class home life, jeopardizing the custody of her child and destroying her marriage to Hector, a successful businessman with ties to the military regime.

"It is the story of how one woman recovers human dignity, of her liberation... it is when she begins to question herself in order to discover who she is, decides to stop lying to herself and to ally herself with the suffering of those around her," Aleandro said.

The film has been criticised in Argentina for not being explicit enough in exposing the atrocities that occurred under the military dictatorships and for failing to propose a solution to the problem of the children of the disappeared.

"It would have been irresponsible to propose a solution at a time when the cases of the children of the disappeared were only beginning to come to light," said Aleandro. "Each case of these children is a universe unto itself and an attempt has been made to do what is best for each child."

Aleandro and Puenzo argue that the film's universal appeal lies in its treatment of a political theme from the point of view of one individual.

"If the film had been done from a partisan standpoint, we would have fallen into ethical rhetoric," Aleandro said.

"It is not a coincidence that the story is told from a humanistic point of view, in an intimate style which chooses one person to tell the story of thousands," Aleandro said. "And that it is told by a confused, mistaken person... she is like the majority of people."

Puenzo told Reuters: "At the time I decided to make the film, 70 to 80 per cent of the people in Argentina were like Alicia. I rejected the obvious plots, the stories of the people who actually disappeared. I decided it would be more effective to look at the problem from the other side."

"There had been an enormous deterioration in the society's values, in the ethics and the morals of each person. We were all victims and accomplices of what has occurred under the military rulers."

Haiti: Bedrock poverty

Whatever government inherits Haiti, it will rule a once-forested land eroded to bedrock. But peasant farmers have shown they can plant trees for profit. Haitian farmers may even flourish after the Duvaliers.

Lloyd Timberlake is Earthscan's editorial director.

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico — Whatever government emerges on Haiti after the recent departure of President-for-Life Jean-Claude "Baby Doc" Duvalier, it will emerge in one of the world's most ravaged landscapes.

The general prognosis for Haiti's future is apocalyptic, with little or no indication from current trends and conditions that the country will be much more than an ecological wasteland by the year 2000, said a report commissioned by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) in 1980. A conference on the Caribbean environment here, which virtually coincided with Duvalier's sudden departure for Europe, confirmed that the 1980 prognosis generally holds good.

When Christopher Columbus saw in 1492 the land that was to become Haiti, he described the mountains as "filled with trees of a thousand kinds and tall." In the 18th Century it was France's richest colony, providing France with more income than Britain received from all its American colonies combined.

Today, estimates of natural forest cover range between 0-9 per cent. In a land four-fifths of which is mountains and hills, this deforestation has meant spectacular erosion, down to bedrock on more than 50 per cent of the area in some rural districts.

Soil has washed into irrigation systems on scarce flat farmland. It has silted up the Peligre Dam, which supplies electricity to Haiti, resulting in power shortages in dry seasons. Peligre was meant to serve into the next century; its use for irrigation and power may now be expended by the end of this decade.

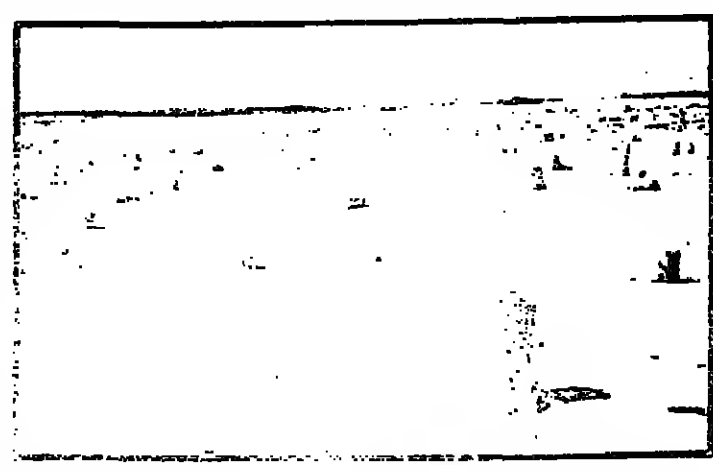
Soil washes down into the capital of Port-au-Prince, which is couched in a ring of hills. Floodwaters rushing off the bare soil occasionally kill people on the city's street, and in the seaside shantytown of Cite Moreau, the homes of people who have fled their rocky farms in the hills are filled nightly during the rainy season with muddy water from these same hills.

Poor people have caused the erosion: erosion in turn has impoverished the people. About three-quarters of Haiti's 5.5 million people live in the countryside and virtually no one in the countryside lives above the poverty line, according to another USAID report.

Average rural income is estimated at \$50 per person per year. Ninety per cent of the rural people are under-employed or unemployed. Life expectancy is 52, by far the region's lowest, and 73-80 per cent of rural pre-school children are malnourished.

This poverty is being exacerbated, as hundreds of thousands of Haitians flee to other Caribbean islands and to the United States. The second most used foreign language in the New York City School system — after Spanish — is Haitian Creole.

Topsoil on a busy Port-au-Prince street. The treacherous hills send their fertile soils into the streets of the capital, and on into the ocean, with every rainfall (photo by Mark Edwards — Earthscan)



A month before the photo was taken, a vast mangrove covered this coastal plain. It was cut down for lumber and charcoal (photo by Mark Edwards — Earthscan)

Israeli economic growth tied to new high-technology firms

By Daniel Grebler
Reporter

HERZLIYA, Israel — Israel, noted for its battle-tested military hardware, hopes civilian high technology can spur economic growth but the young industry faces serious obstacles.

The fashionable Tel Aviv suburb of Herzliya, dubbed "silicon wadi", has become a home for many of Israel's high technology firms, some linked to kibbutz collective settlements which are moving away from traditional agricultural work.

High technology already makes an impressive contribution to Israel's sick economy but the industry is plagued by cash shortages, weak marketing and a loss of engineers to better paid jobs abroad.

Exports from the sector rose to \$2.18 billion last year from \$1.84 billion in 1984, almost half Israel's total sales abroad, excluding polished diamonds.

This adds up to average export growth of 22.3 per cent a year over the past decade while other industries achieved only 12.4 per cent annually.

Most of the new firms are run by young engineers with significant Israeli military experience and advanced training in the United States and Europe.

"It is easier to assemble a top-level R and D (Research and development) team in Israel than elsewhere," said Tavi Lavi of Aitech Systems, which has developed a robust computer for outdoor industries such as railways, mining and forestry.

"Don't forget, Israel is smaller than Los Angeles," he said. "People served together in the military and studied together — everyone knows everyone else."

But the military and electronics industries have recently laid off thousands of workers due to shrinking foreign markets and cuts in local defence spending.

Companies which have focused on military production are looking for civilian applications for their products. "There is a lot of know-how in the military sphere with no place to go," said one industry source.

Some veteran companies such as Scitex, a world leader in graphic imaging and editing, and Elscint, which makes equipment for hospitals, had serious problems last year.

Elscint lost \$33 million, which industry analysts attribute to marketing mistakes and poor planning and design. It accumulated heavy debts and industry sources say it is seeking buyers for its unprofitable divisions.

Hundreds of engineers have left the country for better paid jobs abroad, where salaries exceed their \$1,500 to 2,000 local monthly wage and are not ravaged by high taxes.

Prime Minister Shimon Peres aims at expanding high technology exports by \$6 billion in the next decade.

Peres, who is credited with having laid much of the foundation for Israel's military industries while director-general of the defence ministry, says science and technology must become the basis for Israel's economy.

Israel has some 500 firms in the fields of electronics, lasers, electro-optics, agro-technology and pharmaceuticals which devote a high percentage of their funds to research and development. But

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A restaurant where you pay what you like

By David Brough
Reporter

A new style of restaurant which allows its customers to pay whatever they like, instead of presenting them with a bill, has opened in London.

The restaurant, which is called "Just Around the Corner," claims to be the first of its kind worldwide. The owner admits he risks losing a lot of money, but says customers so far are being surprisingly fair-minded in deciding what to pay.

I went there midweek and in a candlelit atmosphere chose mushroom soup, langoustines and scampi wrapped in a pancake, fresh vegetables, mineral water and coffee.

The waiter gave me a yellow card after my meal listing what I had eaten and asked me to fill in how much I should like to pay. I filled in £2.50.

"People pay more than the straight value of the meal on average," said Peter Ric, 35, head chef and proprietor of the restaurant, which is located near the well-off London suburbs of Hampstead.

"However, two young ladies once paid just £8 (\$11) between them for starters, main course, plenty of wine and coffee."

But generosity is the rule, according to general manager Charles Nagy. "A local couple recently played a joke by paying £5 (\$7) for a five-course meal before offering £50 (\$70) to the restaurant. Another group, a foursome, once paid £100 (\$140)."

Ric had the idea nine years ago when he worked as a chef in a London restaurant. He remembers telling his future wife, a waitress, that he would rather give people money to enjoy spending in a restaurant than see the place go empty.

Now he has the security of owning three other restaurants in London where customers pay bills in the usual way.

"The gimmick wouldn't work unless the food was good," said

Everton shuts down Liverpool to stay top

LONDON (R) — Everton dashed Manchester United's hopes of moving back with them at the top of the English First Division by beating Merseyside rivals Liverpool 2-0 away Saturday.

Goals by skipper Kevin Ratcliffe and England striker Gary Lineker — his 30th of the season — within the space of four minutes in the second half killed off Liverpool's challenge and kept Everton on course for their second successive league title.

United, whose long run at the top of the table was ended recently by Everton's charge, had no trouble beating bottom club West Bromwich 3-0.

All of their goals came from Danish international Jesper Olsen — two of them from the penalty spot.

Everton remain three points clear of United with Liverpool, whose defeat Saturday was their first at Anfield in the league this season, two points further back.

In one of only five First Division matches to beat the arctic weather, Tottenham ended a league goal famine stretching back to boxing day when they came from behind to beat Sheffield Wednesday 2-1.

Tottenham looked as if they would leave Hillsborough empty-handed when Gary Thompson shot Wednesday ahead in the 20th minute.

But the London side struck twice within six minutes midway through the second half. Nigerian international John Chiedozie levelled the scores and then 18-year-old debutant David Howells volleyed home a cross by Paul

Allen. Luton enhanced their reputation as masters of the artificial pitch with a deserved 1-1 draw on the synthetic surface at Loftus Road, home of Queen's Park Rangers.

Luton, who had won on their three previous trips to Loftus Road, fell behind to a 35th minute John Byrne goal.

But they were rewarded for their initiative with a close range equaliser by recent signing Mick Newell — his 22nd goal of the season.

Scottish premier league leaders

Hearts battled back from a goal down away to Celtic to stretch their unbeaten run to 23 matches and maintain their four-point lead over Dundee United.

John Robertson's goal a minute before half-time earned them a 1-1 draw, Scottish international Maurice Johnston having given Celtic the lead after half an hour.

Dundee United, who have played three games fewer than Hearts, also had to settle for a 1-1 draw with Rangers despite the boost of an early goal by Davie Dodds. Rangers equalised just after the interval through Ally McCosk.

Defending champions Aberdeen inched nearer the leading pack with a hard-earned 1-0 away win over Hibernian, Paul Wright scoring in the 14th minute.

Schumacher ordered off in 3-1 defeat at Bayern

BONN (R) — West German goalkeeper Toni Schumacher, who broke Frenchman Patrick Battiston's jaw with his infamous "tackle" during the World Cup semifinal in Spain four years ago, was ordered off for the first time in his career Saturday.

Schumacher was shown the red card during Cologne's 3-1 defeat at Bayern Munich after he had conceded two penalties.

The goalkeeper's day of shame began when he fouled Bayern striker Reinhold Mathy after five minutes — earning him a yellow card — and Lothar Matthaeus gra-

tefully slotted home the resultant penalty.

In the 75th minute, Schumacher ruthlessly tackled Roland Wohlfarth with the same result — Matthaeus scored from the spot and this time the keeper was ordered off.

League leaders Werder Bremen easily maintained their four-point lead over Bayern with a crushing 7-3 victory over lowly Fortuna Dusseldorf. Frank Neubarth scoring four goals to become the First Division's top scorer with 18. Manfred Burgsmueller weighed in with a hat-trick.

Who says Connors has mellowed?

BOCA RATON, Florida (AP) — Jimmy Connors of the United States, enraged by what he felt were "incompetent" line calls, was defeated Friday for refusing to play in the fifth set of his semifinal match against Ivan Lendl at the Lipton International Players Championships tennis tournament.

The Czech-born Lendl, ranked no. 1 in the world and seeded first here, will meet second-seeded Mats Wilander of Sweden in Sunday's title match. Wilander advanced when his opponent, fellow Swede Stefan Edberg, retired early in the second set because of a pulled stomach muscle with Wilander leading 6-4, 1-1.

With Lendl up a service break and leading 3-2, 30-0 in the fifth set, Connors made a half-swing at a Lendl volley that the left-hander thought was long.

When the ball was called good, giving Lendl a 40-0 lead, Connors stormed the umpire's chair and screamed at Jeremy Shales.

"I'm not going to play under these conditions," Connors said. Connors then demanded that Shales call out tournament supervisor Ken Farrar to discuss the situation.

When Connors refused to return to action, he was given a point penalty, closing out the sixth game and increasing Lendl's lead to 4-2. While Connors continued to argue, the clock continued to run and he was given, under the rules, a game penalty, making Lendl's lead 5-2.

That also brought up a changeover, during which time Farrar and tournament referee Alan Mills went on court. They attempted to get Connors to return to the court, saying they couldn't overrule a judgment call, and told Shales to keep the 30-second clock running.

When he still refused to play, the next penalty — a default — was called. The official score was 1-6, 6-1, 2-6, 5-2, default, with Lendl advancing to the final.



Jimmy Connors

The second semifinal between the plaid Swedes promised no such fireworks, but that didn't prevent an odd ending. Edberg said he pulled a stomach muscle four or five days ago and it has been getting steadily worse.

He managed to play despite the pain, but he had trouble serving. He lost his serve in the second and 10th games of the first set, but kept it close by breaking Wilander's serve in the seventh game.

In the mixed double final Friday, Australians John Fitzgerald and Wendy Turnbull beat Steffi Graf of West Germany and Emilio Sanchez of Spain 6-4, 7-5.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Bubka breaks Olson's indoor record

INGLEWOOD, California (AP) — Sergei Bubka, the outspoken Soviet pole vaulter, backed up his words Friday night when he soared to an indoor world best of 5.94 metres in the Los Angeles Times-GTE meet, bettering the mark of rival Billy Olson. Olson set the previous indoor best of 5.93 metres two weeks ago in East Rutherford, New Jersey. Bubka, who had questioned Olson's skills at a press conference earlier in the week, had cleared 5.85 metres on his first attempt at that height. He missed just once Friday night, on his initial attempt at 5.94 metres. After he cleared 5.94 metres meet officials huddled near the pit area. The discussion lasted at least 10 minutes, and the subject of their talk was not immediately known.

Racing scandal suspects released on bail

HONG KONG (AP) — The last 12 of 22 jockeys and other horse-racing figures detained by Hong Kong's chief anti-corruption agency have been released on bail, officials said Saturday. The 22 were allegedly involved in what newspapers called a multi-million dollar race-fixing racket, but the Independent Commission Against Corruption said no charges have been filed. The ICAC said the 12 were released Friday, on bail of between \$6,400 and \$128,000. The commission declined to give further details.

Spinks-Holmes rematch set for April 19

LAS VEGAS (R) — Michael Spinks will make the first defence of his International Boxing Federation heavyweight title against the man he dethroned, Larry Holmes, on April 19 at the Las Vegas Hilton Hotel. Spinks became the first lightweight champion ever to win the heavyweight title when he scored a unanimous, but close, 15-round decision over Holmes last September 21 here. Spinks' victory thwarted Holmes' bid to match Rocky Marciano's 49-0 record. The 36-year-old Holmes announced his retirement after the bout, but soon had a change of heart, saying he wanted to avenge his only defeat.

Chitalada keeps Castillo at bay in defence of title

KUWAIT (R) — Thailand's Sot Chitalada danced his way to a comfortable points over Mexican Freddie Castillo to retain his World Boxing Council (WBC) flyweight crown Saturday.

Chitalada gave a dazzling display of ringcraft which did not, however, go down well in the challenger's camp.

"Run, run, run. All he did was run," complained Castillo's manager, Eric Gormon, afterwards.

Choking with frustration, Gormon voiced disappointment at the outcome, in which all three judges gave Chitalada a clear victory.

Castillo carried the attack to the champion from the first bell of the 12-round bout, stalking him rel-

entlessly in a bid to find an opening for his famed left hook.

The champion countered Castillo's big punches, which time and again left the challenger's defences wide open, with sharp combinations of stinging left jabs and solid right hooks to the head before dancing away.

Chitalada sent Castillo sprawling to the canvas in the second round with a perfectly-timed punch and the champion returned to his corner after almost every round with arms raised high in a victory salute.

In the last round, sensing Castillo's aggression would impress the judges, Chitalada held his ground and slugged it out toe-to-toe.

Piquet sets track record in Brazil

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil (AP) — Two-time world champion Nelson Piquet of Brazil set an unofficial record for the Jacarepagua Race Track Friday with a time of 1 minute, 27.15 seconds in the new Williams-Honda FW11 during Formula One tire tests here.

Piquet's time around the 5.03-kilometre track was .01 seconds faster than the previous record set by Brazil's Ayrton Senna in a Lotus-Renault last month.

"I am very happy with the new development to do, so we should be even faster by the time we come back for the race next month," said Piquet.

Nine Formula One teams have

taken part in the week of tests here to prepare the new cars for the Brazilian Grand Prix, which opens the 1986 racing season here March 23. Most teams were to end testing on Saturday.

The surprising Ligier team had the second-best time Friday, with France's Rene Arnoux clocking 1:31.53 in the new Ligier-Renault JS27 with qualifying tires. When the team tried to improve that mark a turbocharger broke and caused the third engine fire of the week, seriously damaging the car's bodywork.

Ayrton Senna was third with 1:31.90 in the Lotus-Renault 98T.

Arrows held fourth-best time,

Pride is the issue for Canada in 1st World Cup appearance

By Doug Long
Reuter

VANCOUVER, British Columbia — Canada will travel to Mexico to make their first appearance in the World Cup Soccer Finals in Mexico with no illusions about the size of their task.

Given the strength of their opposition in Group C, Canada's coach, former England goalkeeper Tony Waiters, has faced the future with refreshing realism. "Our objective is to go to Mexico and come back with our pride intact," he said as the Canadian squad assembled for the opening of its training camp.

As an underdeveloped soccer nation, Canada cannot call up players of highly-refined skills. They must rely on trying to swarm all over their opponents, closing down the space and restricting scoring opportunities.

"We have our limits in certain skills, but I think we compensate for that with heart and hard work," said Waiters. "This is the most committed group of young people I've ever been involved with."

So far the Canadians' approach has succeeded. They began their pre-World Cup programme of warm-up games against Paraguay. The South Americans had only one shot and the game ended 0-0. Previously, in eight qualifying matches for the World Cup finals, they conceded only four goals.

Critics have said the system is fine against second-rate teams, but will not succeed against the world's best. Canada will discover the truth in Mexico when they meet France in their opening group match.

Five days after their opening fixture against the European champions, Canada meet Hungary. Their final first round match is against the Soviet Union. All three teams possess skills far beyond those of the Canadians.

"We have no superstars," said captain Bruce Wilson. "Conditioning is about 85 per cent of our game. If we are going to win, we have to outtrain the other team. But nobody enjoys facing us."

Wilson, along with several other members of the Canadian squad, was out of work and training privately for the finals before the opening of Canada's training camp.

Such dedication has been typical of their approach and their progress after narrowly missing out last time when a 2-2 draw with Cuba cost Canada a place in the 1982 Finals in Spain.

This time Canada emerged successfully from the qualifying rounds. The biggest problem since earning their Mexico ticket has been assembling all the players at once. Thirteen of the likely squad are under contract to teams in the Major Indoor Soccer League in the United States while four others are in Europe.

Waiters said he hoped to have 22 players together by mid-April, but acknowledged that playoffs could upset his plans and delay final training until May. This could be a particularly serious blow as he said "togetherness" was the team's chief asset.

"What we're most concerned about is getting players that fit into a team unit," he said.

Midfielder Paul James endured a 5-0 defeat by Mexico in 1983. He recalled his initial confusion at the effects of Mexico's light air. "You have to adjust to the flight of the ball," he said. "At the last minute, it really zooms at you. When I first went there I couldn't even run 10 yards without losing my mind. I was just shattered."

Many observers believe Canada will find the finals themselves a shattering experience — but the players refuse to believe that will happen.

"Our system makes it difficult for other teams to play against us," said James. "We close everything down. The way we play reduces goal scoring."

Striker Branko Segota of the San Diego Sockers is the Major Indoor Soccer League's second leading scorer and probably Canada's most dangerous forward. His planned appearance for the team this week will be first for more than a year because of contractual commitments.

Skater turns in 'dream' performance

KARUIZAWA, Japan (AP) — East German superstar Karin Kania led in the point standings of the World Sprint Speed Skating Championships after winning the 500-metre event and skating to a new world record in 1,000 metres Saturday.

Kania set a new world record in the women's 1,000 metres with a time of one minute, 18.84 seconds before 4,500 spectators at the 400-metre Karuizawa Skate Centre in central Japan.

The new time smashed a previous record of 1:19.31 set by Natalja Petrusjeva of the Soviet Union in March 1983.

The 24-year-old Kania, who recently returned to speed skating after a year off to have a child, set a championship record in winning the 500-metre race in 39.94 seconds.

onds.

"My dream came true by winning the two races here today," Kania said after the races. "I am also hoping to win two races tomorrow."

Second races for the women's and men's 500 and 1,000 metres were to be held Sunday. Skaters with the lowest points will win the championships.

Kania, who won three out of four distances in the Women's World Speed Skating Championships in The Hague earlier this month, said "sprint skating is easier than all-round championships, where you have to skate for longer distances."

Igor Zhelezovski of the Soviet Union, 1985 world sprint champion, finished second in the men's 500 metres but won the 1,000-metre event to take the lead in men's point standings. The Soviet said he "strongly hoped" to win both races Sunday.

In second place overall, behind Zhelezovski by 0.465 points, was U.S. skater Dan Jansen. Jansen had 75,220 points against Zhelezovski's 74,755 points overall.

In the 1,000 metre race, Jansen finished in 1:15.68, 0.87 seconds slower than Zhelezovski, but in the 500 metres, the American skater placed third with 37.38 points.

AMMAN LITTLE LEAGUE

Results of basketball games played February 18-21

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Volvo 43
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Volvo 43

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Sakura 58
Jordan Lift 49
Cairo Amman Bank 59
Cairo Amman Bank 65
Jordan Lift 53

International Traders 24
Istiklal Library 25
Jordan Express 39 (OT)
Lego 30

Near East Equipment 38
Peugeot 22
Intercon 32
Astra 19

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Al Ahlyah 35
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If you are a citizen of a Commonwealth country which does not have an Embassy or Consulate in Jordan please ask the British Embassy, Consular Section, about registration formalities.

The British Embassy is located on Third Circle in Jabal Amman. The telephone number is 641261-8 and the Post Office Box Number is 87.

The Consular Section is open from Sunday until Thursday 0930 - 1330 hours.

WATER AUTHORITY Taffia Wastewater Project T3 Tender No. 161/85

Further to the announcement in the local newspapers dated 22/12/1985. Please be informed that the submission date for the above mentioned tender had been postponed to be 4th March 1986 at 12:00 noon instead of 25th of February 1986.

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Performances: 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema RAINBOW
Tel: 625155
DEADLY BLESSING
(Colour)
Performances: 6:30, 8:00, 8:30, 10:15

★ Cine-Theatre Philadelphia
Tel: 634144 - 634149
PLACES IN THE HEART
(Colour)
Performances: 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:15

Cinema RAGHADAN
Tel: 622198
THE LOST EMPIRE
(Colour)
Performances: 12:00, 6:00, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema OPERA
Tel: 675573
JUNGLE HEAT
(Colour)
Performances: 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:30

Volkswagen board approves acquiring Seat

BONN (R) — West Germany's Volkswagen (V.W.) vehicle group Friday agreed to take over the Spanish state-owned carmaker Seat in a move that will bolster its leading position in the highly competitive European car market.

The firm's supervisory board, grouping major shareholders and workforce representatives, approved the takeover, expected to be signed in April or May. The Spanish government earlier agreed to assume loss-making Seat's huge debts, estimated at around 185 billion pesetas (\$1.2 billion).

V.W., which will wholly own Seat by 1990, will initially buy a 51 per cent stake for around 650 million marks (\$283 million) and can increase the holding to 75 per cent this year.

The V.W. group, which includes prestige carmaker Audi, last year became European car market leader for the first time with a share of 12.9 per cent.

With Seat, it will increase its lead with an additional 1.5 per cent market share and strengthen its foothold in the expanding Spanish car market, until recently a blank space on the map of V.W.'s worldwide operations.

V.W. officials have described Seat as the ideal partner because it makes the small cars that are highly popular in Mediterranean countries. With only the V.W. "Polo" to offer, the V.W. group has felt badly under-represented in this important market segment.

Alongside production of its own Ibiza and Malaga models, Seat already assembles V.W. Polos and

Passat station wagons under a 1982 agreement which has given V.W. Audi access to the Spanish firm's 1,100 distribution outlets.

Friday's decision, crowning a year of tough negotiations, assures Seat's future six years after Italy's Fiat abandoned it to an uncertain fate by withdrawing from a long-standing association.

Seat will retain its own name and company officials have indicated the V.W. group's next small car will be sold under the Seat marque.

Despite Seat's recent heavy losses, V.W. managing board chairman, Mr. Carl Hahn said it was now financially healthy. It would invest five billion marks (\$2.17 billion) in the next five years to modernise its production plants, he said in a newspaper interview.

V.W. gave no details of possible job cuts at the Spanish company, which has already reduced its workforce by 9,000 to around 23,000.

Mercedes boosts profit

Meanwhile, Daimler-Benz, the Mercedes car and truck maker, Friday announced record profits, turnover and production for last year and said it saw good prospects for continued strong business in 1986.

Daimler, whose takeover of electricals group AEG this month made it West Germany's biggest industrial conglomerate, boosted worldwide turnover 19 per cent to 51.9 billion marks (\$22.5 billion) as demand for its prestige cars boomed at home and abroad.

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET

AMMAN (J.T.) — The following table summarises trading activities at the Amman Financial Market during the week starting Saturday, Feb. 15, '86 and ending Wednesday Feb. 19, 1986 (Figures in Jordanian dinars).

Name of company	Number of shares	Volume of trade	Opening price	Closing price	Par value
Banks & financial institutions					
Jordan Islamic Bank	22854	53887	2.390	2.350	1.000
Jordan Kuwait Bank	58036	88225	2.390	2.350	1.000
Jordan Gulf Bank	85036	88223	1.310	1.530	1.000
Housing Bank	2205	3327	1.520	1.500	1.000
Arab Jordan Investment Bank	51150	107522	2.220	2.200	1.00
Industrial Development Bank	5550	8633	1.560	1.570	1.000
Petra Bank	15850	44800	2.840	2.750	1.000
Cairo Amman Bank	1110	24890	22.25	22.650	5.000
Bank of Jordan	28	498	17.950	18.000	5.000
Arab Bank	470	70748	154.00	146.000	10.000
Jordan National Bank	13859	35085	2.550	2.550	1.000
Jordan Finance House	13800	11868	0.800	0.860	1.000
Jordan Securities Corporation	4381	4513	1.040	1.030	1.000
Islamic Investment House	5348	5134	0.980	0.960	1.000
Jordan Investment & Finance Corporation	25378	17715	1.200	1.200	1.000
Finance & Credit Corporation	73277	30226	0.910	0.920	1.000
National Financial Investments	45005	56654	1.200	1.280	1.000
National Portfolio Securities	30828	22976	0.740	0.750	1.000
Real Estate Investment (Aqarco)	19930	13220	0.680	0.660	1.000
Real Estate Financial	180	4140	23.000	23.000	1.000
Arab Finance Corporation	300	363	1.310	1.210	1.000
Insurance					
Petra Insurance	250	80	0.290	0.320	1.000
Arab Union International	9750	9270	0.990	0.970	1.000
Jordan French Insurance	315	880	2.800	2.790	1.000
RESCO Insurance	8337	4326	1.040	1.010	1.000
Jerusalem Insurance	3797	4924	1.270	1.320	1.000
Jordan Insurance	165	1865	11.320	11.300	1.000
Arabian Seas Insurance	325	733	2.250	2.260	1.000
Al Arab Insurance & Reinsurance	19476	16814	0.870	0.870	1.000
Universal Insurance (auction)	57940	52275	0.820	0.910	1.000
Jordan Gulf	500	455	0.930	0.910	1.000
Universal Insurance	25560	21499	0.850	0.900	1.000
Services & industries					
Jordan Electric Power	14767	21857	1.480	1.490	1.000
National Shipping Lines	4550	3413	0.760	0.750	1.000
Jordan Dairy	4712	5585	1.180	1.190	1.000
Arab Pharmaceutical Manufacturing	22202	68340	3.040	3.080	1.000
Intermediate Petrochemical Industries	21600	16330	0.770	0.750	1.000
Jordan Paper & Cardboard Factories	1520	3945	2.590	2.600	1.000
Jordan Phosphates Mines	2001	4923	2.500	2.400	1.000
Jordan Lime & Brick	3500	1105	0.320	0.310	1.000
National Industries	6100	5162	0.780	0.870	1.000
Jordan Wooden Industries	7620	9746	1.220	1.280	1.000
Arab Chemical Detergents	1013	4109	4.050	4.060	1.000
Aladdin Industries	15884	11506	0.740	0.720	1.000
Jordan Tobacco and Cigarettes	1602	21627	13.500	13.500	5.000
Arab Aluminium Manufacturing	90900	81597	0.920	0.910	1.000
Arab International Hotels	13386	5752	0.450	0.430	1.000
Management and Consultation	100	24	0.490	0.490	1.000
Jordan Worsteds Mills	725	2647	3.700	3.650	1.000
Jordan Ceramics	3150	3048	0.960	0.970	1.000
Jordan Pipes Manufacturing	94120	12623	1.230	1.310	1.000
Chemical Industries	900	900	1.010	1.000	1.000
Jordan Industries and Matches	6946	4895	0.690	0.710	1.000
Dar Al Dewa for Development & Investment	1870	2805	1.500	1.500	1.000
National Steel Industries	5100	6058	1.170	1.190	1.000
Jordan Tanning	2330	4404	1.850	1.900	1.000
Jordan Leasing Equipment	6085	4503	0.750	0.740	1.000
Universal Chemical Industries	15915	14978	0.960	0.930	1.000
Jordan Rockwool Industries	3000	1770	0.590	0.590	1.000
Arab Paper Converting & Trading	40700	34313	0.310	0.350	1.000
Petra for Projects & Leasing	15814	4651	0.800	0.790	1.000
Rafia Plastic Bags	2000	2100	1.050	1.050	1.000
Jordan Petroleum Refinery	4284	28463	6.680	6.640	5.000
Jordan Breweries	2558	8256	3.300	3.200	1.000
Industrial, Commercial & Agricultural (Intaj)	2474	4630	1.850	1.880	1.000
Irbid District Electricity	50	50	1.000	1.000	1.000
Dar Al Shaab Press	1600	1168	0.730	0.750	1.000
Jordan Fertilisers	50	125	2.350	2.500	10.000
General Mining	2160	3565	1.600	1.650	1.000
Grand Total	166289	204866			

Oil states to call for brief block of OPEC output

TEHRAN (R) — Iran, Libya and Algeria will propose a temporary halt in oil production by OPEC countries when their ministers meet next month, Iranian Oil Minister Gholamreza Aqazadeh said Saturday.

Mr. Aqazadeh told a news conference Iran had proposed a halt in oil pumping for two weeks to a month, followed by a daily production cut of 10 million barrels, the Iranian News Agency (IRNA) reported.

He said Iran, which has urged producers to reduce output to enable oil prices to pick up, had made the proposal at a tripartite meeting with Libya and Algeria last week.

If no serious measures were taken, an uncontrollable crisis would be created and oil-producing countries would suffer the most, he said.

Mr. Aqazadeh said Iran, Libya and Algeria would call on other Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) members to hold a preliminary meeting before next month's session of the organisation in Geneva. The session is scheduled for March 16.

Last week's meeting in Algiers of Iranian, Libyan and Algerian ministers appealed for the "stabilisation of the market and defence of the purchasing power of crude oil."

Iran has blamed higher output by Saudi Arabia and other producers for the current price crisis.

Mr. Aqazadeh said Western industrial countries, particularly the United States, would benefit by >100 billion annually from the current oil price fall, IRNA reported.

Mobil cuts contract prices, spot prices fall below \$14

Meanwhile, spot oil prices in New York fell below the \$14 mark Friday while Mobil cut a hefty \$3 from its contract price for the benchmark U.S. crude oil, West Texas Intermediate.

The decline to \$13.50 on the spot market brought prices to levels not seen since 1978.

"This means that \$12 a barrel for oil is more a reality than a fantasy," one New York crude-oil trader said Friday.

"This decline in (spot) oil prices has been orchestrated by the Saudis," said Mr. Sanford Margoshes, analyst with the Shearson Lehman Brothers investment firm.

He added that the Saudis were going to cut prices to whatever level it took to bring members of the OPEC cartel that have violated price and production controls in "back in line."

The contract price cut by Mobil, effective Saturday, brings the price of West Texas Intermediate to \$18.75 a barrel, and analysts said it was likely to start a new round of cuts by the major oil companies.

The cut leapfrogged the \$1 to \$2 reductions made by several other companies over the past two

days and established a new floor in contract prices for a major oil company.

The reductions by Mobil, one of the largest oil companies in the United States, also suggest the difficulties that the industry has had in stabilising oil prices since the sharp decline began in mid-January, oil traders said.

On the futures market, oil contracts fell just below the \$14 mark for the first time in the current price fall.

Industry sources said the major oil companies had hoped to hold prices at \$25 but the repeated sharp cuts in spot and futures prices forced them to lower their contract prices, the prices they pay for crude oil, toward the \$20 level over the past three days.

New rules may help prevent collapse of Brent market

On the other hand, a group of London traders and brokers has put forward proposals to govern the North Sea Brent market, which in five years has grown from nothing into one of the most significant — and least regulated — corners of the world trade in crude oil.

The group, whose members asked not to be named, sent a telex to scores of oil trading firms urging them accept a code of practice to save the market from collapse.

The aim is to restore market confidence shattered by allegations of fraud or bad faith following a plunge in the price of Brent, the most widely-traded North Sea oil.

Several trading firms have defaulted and the resulting turmoil has overwhelmed the clubby Brent market with a wave of writs and lawsuits, bringing trading almost to a halt.

Nine major oil companies were named in a \$261 million lawsuit filed by Transnor, a Bermuda-based oil trader, charging them with price fixing and market manipulation.

New York trader Pibiro Energy found it necessary publicly to deny rumours that it had defaulted on Brent delivery contracts.

The proposed code, covering technicalities like non-performance, letters of credit and loading dates, is meant to complement revised contracts being drawn up by major oil firms and is expected to be ready by the end of next week, its authors said.

"We hope this will be adopted by the industry to... help avoid abuse of the operation of contracts for commercial profit," said one oilman associated with the proposal.

Many traders and brokers have already welcomed it.

YOUR DAILY Horoscope

from the Carroll Righter Institute

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY, FEB. 23, 1986

GENERAL TENDENCIES: You get a sudden inspiration on how to put yourself in a more expanded consciousness and to gain the aspirations that mean the most to you.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) In the morning, get busy contacting those who are far away, but later some anxiety crops up and requires your time and attention.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Your intuition tells you how to have a good time today, but soon a new acquaintance can bring some annoyance.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Morning can be pleasant in the company of a partner, but later some outside situation can cause you anxiety and takes time.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) You now know how to gain more money for whatever work you perform. Avoid someone who wants to change you.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Set up appointments for amusements during the week, but later do not start any arguments with your mate.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Be happy with your mate early, but later some situation may arise at your home that needs quick handling.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Be with a good friend at a place where high-minded ideas are expounded in the morning. Later conditions may not be so good.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) A prominent person could open doors of opportunity for you, but take care later you do not overspend for pleasure.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) In the morning, you get excellent ideas for advancement, but later the situation at home could be tense.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) During breakfast, you get fine on ideas how to enjoy greater well being in the days ahead.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) A good morning to discuss the future with home ties and associates so that it can be more harmonious and profitable.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) You work quite hard trying to make your environment more charming, but later do not feel satisfied because you are tired.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY... he or she will be appreciative of own environment and will do very well at school. Upon reaching adulthood, there can suddenly be a need for hard work and could easily develop a martyr complex if you do not teach that life is full of changes. Don't neglect physical education.

THE Daily Crossword by N.E. Campbell

ACROSS

1. Race, see

5. Secure

9. Church section

13. Talk out, in printing

14. Select

15. "We all"

16. Band's river

17. God of war

18. Spoke

19. Sausage

20. Boring chant

21. Arabian

22. Red or yellow

23. Mink

24. Israel

25. Black cuckoo

26. In order

27. Sausage

28. Alliance

29. Acronym

30. Responsibility

31. Alone

32. Tense, senator

33. Sagacious

34. Sausage

DOWN

2. Race, see

6. Secure

10. Church section

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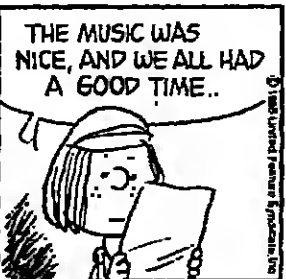
31. Responsibility

32. Alone

33. Tense, senator

34. Sagacious

Peanuts



Mutt 'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



Soviet offer reveals Europe's worries about military balance

BRUSSELS, Belgium (AP) — The Soviet Union's proposal to eliminate hundreds of medium-range nuclear missiles the superpowers have deployed in Europe sounds good to people living on the nuclear firing line.

But it has raised a troublesome question in NATO capitals: Would Western Europe really be better off without the missiles?

Until recently the answer seemed to be a plain and obvious "yes."

After all, that has been the official goal of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation since before it began deploying the controversial U.S. cruise and Pershing 2 nuclear missiles in late 1983.

Governments of the five West European countries that agreed to install 572 of the American missiles faced widespread public protests, but they said the missiles were needed to counter a growing Soviet force of SS-20 nuclear rockets targeted on Western Europe.

The missiles could come out, they said, if the Soviets agreed to do the same.

But now, with the prospects growing brighter for a U.S.-Soviet agreement to eliminate the nuclear-tipped missiles, new attention is being focused on how secure Western Europe would be without them.

These are the key issues: If both sides got rid of the missiles would Western Europeans be more vulnerable to what NATO says is a vastly superior Soviet

ground force of troops, tanks, non-nuclear missiles and other conventional arms?

Would the withdrawal of U.S. nuclear weapons give the appearance of a weaker American commitment to the nuclear defence of Western Europe?

Will Britain and France, the only European nations with nuclear forces of their own, be forced to accept limits on their missiles?

Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev proposed on Jan. 15 that the United States withdraw its cruise and Pershing 2 missiles in Europe and the Soviets their SS-20s as part of a 15-year phased elimination of all nuclear weapons.

The administration of U.S. President Ronald Reagan is expected to offer a formal response soon. NATO says the Soviets have 441 SS-20s in place, compared with 236 U.S. cruise and Pershing 2 missiles as of Dec. 31, 1985.

Reports in some European media in recent days have suggested a U.S.-European split within NATO over how the United States should respond.

Yet in interviews with the Associated Press, several European diplomats said this week that their governments still favour the total

elimination of medium-range nuclear missiles in Europe. They said their position is broadly the same as that of the United States.

"We think it is an acceptable solution," said one high-level European NATO official.

The diplomats spoke on condition of anonymity, citing the sensitivity of continuing consultations with the United States on the Soviet proposal.

A British diplomat said the allies were confident all the options put before Mr. Reagan by his advisers would be acceptable to the Europeans.

"The alliance is not sitting in trepidation," he said.

The Europeans said they are concerned about a Soviet advantage in conventional force strength.

Some said a U.S.-Soviet deal should include a Soviet commitment to limit deployment of shorter-range SS-21, SS-22 and SS-23 nuclear missiles, which are stationed in East Germany and Czechoslovakia.

"There wouldn't be any point to it, at the same time, the Soviets had the right to increase" the number of shorter-range missiles capable of striking NATO territory, one European official said.

West Germany in particular is known to be concerned that if a superpower deal does not include limits on shorter-range Soviet missiles, Western Europe could be worse off.

But if faced with the choice of

accepting a withdrawal of the nuclear missiles from Europe or waiting for further negotiations on U.S. and Soviet conventional and chemical weapons, the Europeans apparently would take the missile deal alone.

An area of potential conflict between the U.S. and Europe is Mr. Gorbachev's insistence that, as part of a missile deal, Britain and France not be allowed to modernise their independent nuclear forces.

London and Paris have rejected this idea and say Mr. Reagan has assured them he would not hargain away their nuclear options to achieve a U.S.-Soviet agreement.

It was the Europeans who initially suggested stationing U.S. nuclear missiles on their soil. But there seems to be little concern among European leaders that withdrawing them would signal a weakening of America's nuclear guarantee to the defence of the alliance.

NATO Secretary-General Lord Carrington of Britain said earlier this week that he saw no reason for the Europeans to be concerned about what NATO Commander Gen. Bernard Rogers has called a potential "decoupling" of the United States from Western Europe.

"I have never felt that this was a real problem in genuine terms," he said. "After all, we didn't feel all that decoupled before we had the cruise and Pershings."

U.S. arms en route to Angolan guerrillas

WASHINGTON (R) — The first weapons in President Reagan's covert aid programme for Angola's UNITA rebels are en route and an agreement may have been reached with Zaire to transship the arms, House sources have said.

Mr. Reagan gave a red carpet welcome earlier this month to Jonas Savimbi, leader of the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA), and a U.S. official this week confirmed that a decision to provide covert aid had been made.

Chester Crocker, assistant secretary of state for Africa, gave no figure for the aid but congressional sources have put the amount at \$15 million.

A House Africa Subcommittee

source, who asked not to be identified, said the covert aid was "on its way" to UNITA strongholds in south eastern Angola.

Another House source said the arms, which included light shoulder-held anti-aircraft and anti-tank missiles would likely pass through Zaire, which borders Angola to the east.

"We believe the agreement is in place" between the United States and Zaire for transshipment of the weapons, he said.

Crocker, in testimony on Tuesday before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, said the administration wanted to make sure Mr. Savimbi received the arms before an expected offensive in April by the Marxist government in Luanda.

France said to hold 13 Liberian-bound mercenaries

LONDON (AP) Thirteen men being held by authorities at Brest in north-west France are British mercenaries who had been heading for Liberia, the Daily Mail reported Saturday.

The British tabloid said their mission before their arrest in Brest had been to sail to the West African nation with a huge supply of arms and overthrow Liberian President Samuel Doe.

French reports on Friday said French customs and counterintelligence agents who seized arms found aboard the men's Panamanian-registered coaster Silver Sea appeared to believe the weapons were destined for opponents of the Sierra Leone government.

French port authorities at Brest said the coaster, with an English-speaking crew of 13, was forced to shelter in the Brest Estuary Mon-

day night because of storms, and had been watched by customs officers since Wednesday.

A customs search Thursday revealed the 666-ton vessel carried large quantities of arms, including submachine guns, bazookas and ammunition, not only in its holds but also as deck cargo under tarpaulins, the Brest authorities said.

The vessel, built in 1958, is under charter to Atlantic Tug and Shipping Limited, registered at a postoffice box number in St. Peter Port in the channel island of Guernsey, they said.

They said the last known landfall of the vessel was the English south coast port of Southampton last September. French counterintelligence agents are questioning the crew in an attempt to discover where the arms were loaded.

Flame from booster may have caused shuttle blast

WASHINGTON (AP) — Space Shuttle Challenger may have been struck by its own partially detached rocket booster and subjected to the exhaust flame in the two seconds before it exploded, a specialised journal reports.

In its edition scheduled for publication Monday, Aviation Week and Space Technology reports that information fed to earth during the shuttle's flight indicates the right-hand rocket booster showed bright spots of fire about seven seconds before the explosion.

It was not clear from the description whether the seven astronauts aboard could have seen the fire, or had any other warning of the explosion.

The magazine distributed its account as a presidential commission probing the disaster moved into permanent quarters and began sifting through documents it has requested from space agency and industry officials involved in the decision to launch Challenger on Jan. 28.

Members of the commission visited several National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) installations around the country.

The commission itself came in for criticism by some Senate Democrats, who complained that the panel is being too secretive

about the information it receives. But a Democratic call for separate Senate investigative hearings was quickly rejected by Republicans, who have a majority in the Senate.

The commission, headed by former Secretary of State William P. Rogers, is scheduled to resume public hearings Tuesday.

Meanwhile two small submarines continued methodically mapping the ocean floor Friday, documenting the location of the wreckage of the right rocket booster suspected of causing the Challenger blast.

The larger of the two subs, the nuclear-powered NR-1, carried four NASA and industry rocket booster experts along with its normal crew of seven. The experts were helping identify the debris, which was being photographed.

Cameras of the four-man Johnson Sea-Link 2 charted a second area within a 16 kilometre by 40 kilometre search zone.

The Sea-Link discovered parts of the right booster last week about 72 kilometres north east of Cape Canaveral. One segment was retrieved and a serial number clearly showed it was a hydraulic reservoir from the booster.

The subs are searching primarily for wreckage containing the booster's lower seam.

15 tons of radioactive gas leaks at U.K. plant

LONDON (AP) — Fifteen tons of "mildly radioactive" carbon dioxide gas was accidentally released from a Welsh nuclear power station, electricity authorities said.

In the latest of a string of accidents in the nuclear industry, the Central Electricity Generating Board said Friday the gas, equivalent to about half a tanker load, escaped at the 20-year-old Trawsfynydd Power Station in north Wales when a safety valve lifted on a nuclear reactor.

An alert was declared, the fault was "isolated" within 15 minutes and the reactor shut down after a loss of pressure, the board said.

The board said Friday night that one of the 250 staff members examined after the leak had been found to be contaminated with a "speck" of radioactivity on his nose.

Contamination was found on the roof of the reactor, within the site, and at one spot 90 metres from the station, it said.

The leak came at the end of a rough week for Britain's nuclear power industry.

On Tuesday, a broken pipe spewed out radioactive water from a storage pond at Britain's Sellafield Nuclear Reprocessing Plant, and the state-owned British Nuclear Fuels Company said it was immediately contained by a trench built for the purpose.

Thirteen days before, a leak of highly radioactive plutonium nitrate contaminated 11 workers at the same plant, in Cumbria on the coast of the Irish Sea.

Irish Prime Minister Garret Fitzgerald officially complained to Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher on Wednesday about leaks of radioactive waste into the Irish Sea from Sellafield, which has reported more than 300 accidents since it opened in 1950.

On the same day, electricity authorities acknowledged there was a radioactive leak from a boiler tube at the Sizewell Nuclear Power Station, 120 kilometres north east of London.

On Thursday, the 12-nation European Parliament in Strasbourg voted 135-99 in favour of Sellafield being closed, pending the outcome of an inquiry by the British House of Commons.

Before Friday's gas leak in Wales became known, the government confirmed reports that it was carrying out a monitoring exercise of food by a sample 50 families around Sellafield to see if radioactive waste has contaminated food, garden products or soil.

Rebels attack six embassies in Peru

LIMA (R) — Leftist guerrillas bombed six embassies and at least 10 other targets in overnight assaults in Lima despite a recent crackdown on rebels, police said.

No deaths or injuries were reported.

The blasts shortly before midnight damaged the embassies of West Germany, Spain, China and India and chipped pavement off the footpath in front of the U.S. embassy. A dynamite blast went off near the Argentine mission, but it showed no signs of damage.

Police said rebels in speeding cars had hurled sticks of dynamite at the buildings.

A fire in the shape of a hammer and sickle was set on a hillside overlooking Lima in the sign traditionally used by the Maoist Sendero Luminoso (shining path) group to claim responsibility for an attack.

It was the first round of guerrilla bombings since Feb. 7, when President Alan Garcia decreed a state of emergency and a four-hour curfew in Lima.

The measures, the strictest crackdown in the capital during the five-year guerrilla insurgency, were aimed at curbing the spread of Sendero rebels from the Andes to the capital.

The main towns of Ayacucho, the south eastern Andean state where Sendero launched its insurgency in May 1980, were hit by

U.S. confirms defection of top Soviet agent

WASHINGTON (R) — The U.S. State Department has acknowledged that a top Soviet spy has been brought to the United States with a woman friend and his son after defecting in Athens.

The defector was identified as Viktor Gundarev, a colonel in the Soviet KGB. With him is his son Maxim, aged seven, and a woman the State Department said was a family friend, Galina Gromova.

Gromova has been described in press reports as a Soviet teacher and the child's nanny. Athens newspaper reported she was romantically involved with the agent.

State Department Spokesman Charles Redman had no information on the whereabouts of the boy's mother when he confirmed the defection Friday, although informed Western sources said she and another child were in Moscow.

U.S. intelligence sources said the defector had been working on maritime matters since 1983 and had also been stationed in New Delhi.

Mr. Redman's confirmation of

reports of Gundarev's defection was unusual. The U.S. government rarely officially acknowledges a defection.

Last August the department confirmed the defection, also in Athens, of high ranking KGB officer Vitaly Yurchenko.

But Yurchenko returned to the Soviet Union after a news conference at the Soviet embassy here in which he accused the United States of drugging him and kidnapping him.

A television news broadcast Friday night said Gundarev had told the United States that Yurchenko was a genuine defector and not a KGB plant. Gundarev said he served in the same KGB unit as Yurchenko. CBS News said.

There was no official comment on the report.

Gundarev was seen by intelligence sources as a bigger catch for the West than Sergei Bokhan, the deputy station chief of Soviet Military Intelligence, the GRU, who defected in Greece last May.

Chinese MiG pilot wants asylum in third country

SEOUL (R) — The Chinese pilot who defected to South Korea in his MiG-19 fighter and caused an air raid scare in Seoul is seeking political asylum in a third country, the Defence Ministry said Saturday.

Ministry officials did not name the country pilot Chien Pao-Chung, 26, was seeking as sanctuary but analysts said they believed it was Taiwan, which traditionally hands out gold to military men who flee the mainland.

The Foreign Ministry said the government was expected to respect the wishes of the pilot according to international law and practices.

China called on Seoul to return

the plane and the pilot, the sixth to flee to South Korea since the end of the 1950-53 Korean War.

Chien's defection Friday set off air raid warnings and fears that the country faced imminent air attack.

State radio interrupted programmes to warn of enemy air activity over the Seoul areas.

Audiences in some Seoul cinemas scrambled for underground shelters after the radio said a Chinese military plane had landed in an airbase near Seoul.

The Defence Ministry said South Korean jets intercepted the MiG and drove off two North Korean fighters which were apparently chasing it.

Police ordered to crack down on Kashmir rioters

NEW DELHI (AP) — Kashmir's chief minister ordered police to curb Hindu-Muslim rioting with "ruthlessness" as violence flared anew Saturday in several villages in the northern state, the United News of India reported.

G.M. Shah, the top elected official of Kashmir, told district officials to deal sternly with trouble makers and arrest anti-social elements, the news agency said.

It was the ninth consecutive day of sectarian violence in India following the reopening of an ancient shrine in northern Uttar Pradesh state, claimed by both Hindus and Muslims.

More than 150 people have been arrested in Kashmir in the past two days in connection with widespread rioting and arson, UNI said quoting officials.

Incidents of arson and looting were reported from Anantnag and Srinagar, the capital. Army troops already are deployed in Anantnag and surrounding villages to control the violence.

In Calcutta, additional paramilitary troops and police deployed Saturday to prevent more violence, a day after Hindus and Muslims clashed with rocks and bombs.

Haiti to seek return of Duvalier's fortune

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (Agencies) — Haiti's new leaders will ask foreign governments to help recover the huge fortune amassed by the Duvalier family in 28 years of dictatorial rule, Finance Minister Marcel Leger said.

"There are procedures that we can follow and that is what we intend to do," he told a news conference Friday, adding that the government was consulting a legal expert "from a great country."

Mr. Leger would not identify the lawyer and gave no details of steps Haiti would take to press for the return of the up to \$600 million that dictator Jean-Claude Duvalier and his late father, Francois, are estimated to have spirited out of the country.

Three days ago the government announced the seizure of Jean-Claude's assets in Haiti and gave companies 15 days to report their dealings with the fallen dictator.

Jean-Claude "Baby Doc" Duvalier left Haiti for temporary exile in France on Feb. 7 after weeks of violent protests against his rule and the corruption that marked the Duvalier dynasty.

Most of the money the Duvaliers drained from Haiti, the poorest country in the Western hemisphere, is believed held in bank accounts in Switzerland, the United States and France.

Foreign economic experts here drew parallels between the Duvalier case and the Iranian gov-

ernment's failed efforts to recuperate the vast personal fortune of the Shah of Iran after his fall in 1979.

"How do you get such funds back when you don't know where they are held, let alone exactly how much they are?" one senior Western economist asked. "Estimates of the Duvalier fortune range from \$100 million to \$600 million. The truth is somewhere in the middle."

Foreign economists here blame corruption and mismanagement for at least part of the economic problems of a country where 80 per cent of the population makes less than \$130 a year while a tiny elite lives in splendid luxury.

Giving the first public account of Haiti's financial state, Central Bank Governor Jean-Claude Sannon told the news conference there was only half-a-million dollars in cash in the bank on Feb. 7.

"We have another \$18 million to \$20 million in foreign reserves available to us abroad," Mr. Sannon said.

Describing Haiti's finances as a "real mess," Mr. Sannon said the new government would renegotiate the country's foreign debt — estimated to total \$600 million — with the International Monetary Fund.

"Renegotiation is normal procedure when a new government comes in," Mr. Sannon said.

The deposed Haitian president

said in an interview Friday that he wants to stay in France, raise his family and resume his law studies.

"I want to resume the law studies I began, live calmly with my wife and above all raise my children in love and in respect for the country which welcomes them," he said in a telephone interview with French Radio. Haiti, "for me, is completely finished."

Duvalier, his wife Michel, their six children and several other family members and friends have been staying under French police guard at a luxury lakeside hotel in Talloires in south eastern France.

They arrived on Feb. 7 aboard a U.S. Air Force plane from Haiti following a mass uprising against 28 years of Duvalier family rule. The French immediately announced that Duvalier would be expelled from France as soon as a third country agreed to accept him.

But the only country that has indicated any willingness is Liberia, and Duvalier and his French lawyer say the 34-year-old former "president for life" does not want to go to Liberia.

Duvalier, in an interview with Radio Europe 1, said he was "surprised" by Washington's refusal "but declined to comment further. 'I will fight for the legal statute (of refuge) which is my right, and the only country I've chosen is France... I have confidence in France.'"

COLUMN 8

10 severed fingers reattached

PEKING (AP) — A woman who lost all 10 fingers in an industrial accident is expected to recover the use of her hands after surgeons reattached the digits in a 27-hour operation, the Xinhua news agency said Saturday. Wang Futao, 20, lost her fingers in a paper-cutting machine on Jan. 27 at a printing factory in Xian, capital of Shaanxi province in north-central China, said the report by the official news agency. She was rushed to an army hospital in the city and a team of 26 doctors and nurses worked to rejoin the blood vessels, nerves, bones and tendons. The report quoted a doctor as saying blood circulation had returned to normal. "It seems like a wonderful dream to see my fingers reattached to my hands," Ms. Wang said quoted as saying. The report said doctors at Shanghai Medical College, a leading medical school, knew of no other successful 10-finger reattachment in the world.

Photographer hurt in melee as pop star arrives

LONDON (AP) — American pop star Madonna created a stir among news photographers when she arrived in London, and one of them fell under the wheel of her limousine in the scramble to take pictures. About 10 photographers had camped outside London's Heathrow Airport for the New York star's arrival from Berlin with her actor husband Sean Penn. When bodyguards tried to sneak the couple out of the airport terminal by a side door, the photographers raced over and placed themselves in front of the car.

French restaurateur awarded \$22.5m

MIAMI (R) — A Miami jury has awarded \$22.5 million to a French chef who lost his high-class restaurant after a Jewish businessman circulated a letter branding him an anti-semitic, according to court documents. The jury ruled in favour of Denis Rety, a Frenchman who claimed the letter triggered a boycott of his La Belle Epoque Restaurant on Miami Beach, forcing him to file for bankruptcy. The defamation of character lawsuit stemmed from a 1982 incident in which businessman Arthur Green phoned Rety after eating at the restaurant to complain about the service. Green testified that Rety responded by calling him a "dirty Jewish bastard" and also delivered other anti-semitic slurs. Rety denied Green's charges. A few days later, Green, president of a Food Brokerage Concern, began circulating a letter to major Jewish organisations accusing Rety of making "violent, anti-semitic comments."

World's oldest person dies at age of 120

TOKYO (R) — Shigechiyo Izumi, regarded as the world's oldest living person, died at the age of 120 on the small southern Japanese island of Tokunoshima, the publicly-owned Japan Broadcasting Corporation (NHK) reported. Izumi is listed in the Guinness Book of Records as the oldest authenticated centenarian ever recorded. He celebrated his 120th birthday on June 29 last year. Izumi, who was confined to a wheelchair, said then that he attributed his long life to God's will and a daily lot of Japanese "shochu" liquor. According to the Health and Welfare Ministry, Japanese have the longest average life expectancy in the world, with 80 years for women and 75 years for men.

Ferraro's son charged with intent to sell cocaine

MIDDLEBURY, Vermont (R) — John Zaccaro, Jr., son of former Democratic vice-presidential candidate Geraldine Ferraro, was charged with trying to sell cocaine in this Vermont University town. A police spokeswoman said the 22-year-old Middlebury College student was arrested after making a cocaine sale to an undercover police agent. A court affidavit said police found eight grams of cocaine in assorted packages, over \$1,600 in cash and cheques, a record of previous sales, marijuana, a scale and other drug paraphernalia in his car and off-campus apartment.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SHARIF
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RESTRICTED CHOICE

Both vulnerable. West deals.
NORTH
♠ QJ1093
♥ Q86
♦ J76
♣ Q7
EAST
♠ 85
♥ 105432
♦ AQ102
♣ KJ965

WEST
♠ 84
♥ A J
♦ AQ102
♣ KJ965
EAST
♠ 65
♥ 105432
♦ 943
♣ 832

SOUTH
♠ AK72
♥ K85
♦ K85
♣ A104
The bidding:
1 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass
3 ♠ Pass
3NT Pass

Opening lead: Six of ♣.
Bridge teachers and writers make much of the eight-card trump fit. On this hand from the recent trials to select the 1986 U.S. international team, North-South found a nine-card major-suit fit (two right) spured it in favor of three notrump. Unfortunately, declarer misguessed the play and failed in his game contract.

North felt his hand was worth one effort after South made a balancing takeout double and then

decoated strength by raising North's response. His three club bid showed a half-stopper in clubs, and South chose to bid three notrump. Note that four spades would have had no chance at all.

Declarer won the club opening with dummy's seven, then cashed the queen, king and ace of spades. Both defenders discarded a club on the third spade. A low heart fetched the jack from West and dummy's queen won. Declarer cashed two more spade tricks, discarding a diamond from hand while West parted with two diamonds. Now declarer threw West an lead by cashing the ace of clubs and exiting with a club.

West won and cashed his last club, and declarer bid to find a crucial discard. He eventually decided to play West for a 2-3-3-5 distribution and discarded a diamond, blanking his king. West cashed two diamond tricks and the ace of hearts for down one.

The Rule of Restricted Choice applies here. Had West held A-J-10 of hearts, he could have played either the jack or two when the suit was first led. The fact that he played one specific honor tends to deny that he has the other. Therefore, it was correct for South to bare his king of hearts and keep the guarded king of diamonds.